



REEVES' PUB HELP ONLY 'A STICKING PLASTER'

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**350 migrants arrive but only 281 leave
under Starmer's French deal 'disaster'**

QUELLE TOTALE FARCE!



EXCLUSIVE

BY MICHAEL KNOWLES Home Affairs Editor

KEIR Starmer's flagship migrant policy was called a "total farce" as Shabana Mahmood admitted Labour has taken in more people from France than it sent back.

The Home Secretary said 350 asylum seekers arrived under the "one-in, one-out" deal in its first six months, but just 281 were deported.

She denied the scheme is a "disaster", insisting "the numbers will grow", as she revealed

TURN TO PAGE 4

Caring Kate's plait trick

SEE PAGES 10&11



WEATHER FORECAST

°C	°F
40	100
30	80
20	60
10	40
0	20
-20	0
-30	-20

Temperatures in Centigrade

OPINION **12** TV **37** LETTERS **42** STARS **44** CITY **47** SPORT **51** **PLUS** PUZZLES PULLOUT

Just a fish head morsel for this hungry giant as intrepid snapper Ken Kiefer times his throw perfectly



Underwater picnic a Jaws dropping show

IF you really want to get sharks eating out of the palm of your hand, take snacks.

This is what underwater snapper Ken Kiefer rustles up for the terrifying predators in waters off the Bahamas.

The Jaws movie image is what Ken, 56, wants to dispel and his top tip is: "Basically, don't act like prey and you won't get treated like prey."

So the photographer from Texas dives down with lunch boxes, eagerly devoured

by the various hammerhead, bull, tiger and reef sharks that swarm around him.

Ken, who posts his images and videos on Instagram, added: "I've been fascinated with sharks since I was young.

"Like many people, the movie Jaws really scared me. But it also intrigued me enough to make me scavenge the library for information.

"The more facts I had, the more I admired these predators."



Hammerhead is next up for a feast as big fan Ken entices and pets other sharks that want a bite



Starmer is blamed for Rwanda's legal case

BY MICHAEL KNOWLES

RWANDA is suing Britain after Labour axed the migrant deportation deal to "appease chattering classes who are quite happy to see small boat migrants arriving", a former immigration minister warned.

Sir Keir Starmer scrapped the agreement with Kigali on his first day in office but the government was yesterday accused of "sloppiness", with the legal action allegedly being triggered after officials failed to formally terminate the scheme.

The claim, lodged through the Netherlands-based Permanent Court of Arbitration, alleges that Rwanda was prepared to forego a £50million staged payment - which had initially been due in April 2024 - because the new government wanted to scrap the scheme. But it is claimed Labour then failed to officially terminate the agreement with the country.

Former immigration minister Kevin Foster said: "Keir Starmer scrapped this on day one but since the Labour Party came to office, we've seen small boat arrivals surge. It wasn't just Rwanda that was needed to solve the small boats crisis - it was a whole package of measures.

Catastrophic

"Ironically, we can now see the US looking at Rwanda, Denmark looking at using Rwanda...

"It adds insult to injury for taxpayers. It doesn't surprise me to hear that there was just sloppiness in how they rushed to cancel a deal to appease chattering classes who are quite happy to see small boat migrants arriving, as long as they are not going to be housed near them.

"This is just another sign that the government doesn't have a comprehensive strategy."

Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said: "This is yet another catastrophic consequence of Labour's decision to scrap the Rwanda scheme. The deal was ready to see the first flights take off, and ditching it was a borderline act of treachery.

"This legal action means the taxpayer is now facing a huge bill for Labour's incompetence."

In all, £290million was paid directly to the Rwandan regime under the deal.

A government spokesman said: "We will robustly fight this in the courts to protect British taxpayers. The previous government's Rwanda policy wasted vast sums of taxpayer time and money."

The Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood; migrants prepare to board UK-bound dinghy near Dunkirk



'No surprise illegal across the Channel

FROM PAGE ONE

immigration officials struggled to find people to come to Britain via the new legal route. On average, just 11 migrants have been sent back each week since the scheme came into force on August 6.

Sources blamed the imbalance on a cancelled flight. But Shadow Home Secretary Chris Philp said: "This is a lamentable admission of failure by the Home Secretary. The government scheme has resulted in a net inflow of 70 immigrants.

"Worse than that, they have only removed 281 illegal immigrants when 41,000 arrived last year. The chances of an illegal Channel migrant being removed under this scheme are virtually zero.

"It's no surprise that illegal immigrants continue to flood across the

Channel on this Home Secretary's watch. She has no control of illegal immigrants crossing. The only way to stop this is to exit the ECHR and deport all illegal immigrants within a week of arrival. But the Home Secretary is too weak to do that."

Tory MP Mr Philp added: "This whole scheme has been a total farce from start to finish.

Crumbling

"It has no deterrent effect whatsoever and has simply let even more migrants into the country."

More than 17,000 migrants have crossed to the UK during the scheme - 21,000 have arrived by small boat since it was announced in July, adding to pressure on the crumbling asylum system. Labour

had wanted to deport up to 50 migrants a week but faced modern slavery claims and one-off operational issues on the French side.

A total 41,472 migrants crossed last year, up from 36,566 in 2024.

Shadow Home Office minister Katie Lam told the Express: "The government's 'one-in, one-out' deal with France is a total disaster as the Conservatives said it would be.

"This isn't border control; it's capitulation to the gangs.

"Sending people back to France offers zero deterrence. Until the government accepts that the only deterrent that will work is sending migrants back to their own country, or to a safe third country, Labour will never get control of our borders. Labour ditched Rwanda, refuses to set targets and admits it

can't promote its weak legal route because smugglers dominate.

"This is an incompetent betrayal of our borders and taxpayers."

Reform UK's head of policy Zia Yusuf said: "The latest woeful figures show that Labour still cannot be trusted to control our borders.

Disaster

"Their handling of illegal migration has been an unmitigated disaster. We need mass deportations."

Ms Mahmood told LBC as both the British and French were "concerned about whether we could physically handle" the exchanges, the scheme began "very small and very slowly".

On the six-month totals, she said: "They are relatively small numbers,

BRANDED A FARCE



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Slapdown for Khan on ICE jibe

BY MICHAEL KNOWLES

LABOUR Mayor of London Sir Sadiq Khan faced ridicule after comparing Nigel Farage's immigration plans to Donald Trump's ICE raids in the US - as his own party celebrates its deportations record.

Sir Sadiq described ICE as "a de facto paramilitary force targeting and terrorising diverse communities", adding: "This is a new extreme, and one a Reform government could seek to emulate, leaving minorities fearing a tap on the shoulder."

Reform UK has vowed to deport 600,000 illegal migrants and failed asylum seekers in its first year in office if it wins the next general election.

Under Mr Farage's plans, a "UK Deportation Command" would use data from banks, the Home Office, HMRC, police, DVLA and NHS to identify every illegal migrant, Reform said.

They will be offered £2,500 each to leave the UK within six months, after which enforcement teams will arrest them.

Sir Sadiq yesterday likened this to the US strategy.

But Reform UK's Lee Anderson pointed to Labour's boasts of removing over 50,000 immigration offenders since coming to power in July 2024.

He added: "Maybe Mayor Khan needs reminding that deportation is his own party's policy."

migrants keep flooding under Mahmood's watch'

but this was a pilot. It was designed to try to prove this new model of working with the French could work.

"There are practical issues around how quickly you can detain people and get them on a plane. We've actually sped up removals to France. Numbers will grow."

The Home Secretary refused to set a target, for fear of upsetting the French. She added: "We're always in negotiations with our colleagues in France."

"It's not just a goal for us, it's whether they can handle the people coming in."

"One of the first

problems we ran into was we couldn't find enough people to bring into Britain through the new route because there wasn't enough knowledge. You have got to compete with organised immigration crime to get your messages out."

Migrants returned to France are housed in one of 3,000 state accommodation centre spaces for asylum seekers but are free to leave.

The deal tipped into farce when two migrants re-crossed the Channel after being removed once.

Under the deal, French officials can hide key details about asylum seekers they are sending. They can

also refuse to take any Channel migrant who is said to pose a "threat to public policy, internal security, public health or the international relations of any of the Schengen States".

Meanwhile small boat arrivals with human rights claims are allowed to stay in the UK until they have exhausted all legal challenges.

Ms Mahmood admitted plans to convert military bases into asylum housing will trigger more protests but she defended moving migrants into a East Sussex camp last week, insisting it will cut hotel costs.

She said: "I do understand the strength of feeling amongst residents in Crowborough and I know that as we expand the use of military sites, we will see similar issues elsewhere." But she claimed "the

policy that we inherited of housing asylum seekers in asylum hotels was the wrong thing".

She said using forces' sites "deals with one of the "pull factors" advertised by immigration criminals: "You get a hotel room when you arrive in Britain."

Ms Mahmood added: "There are no easy answers here."

Solution

"I wish that there were, that I could implement and make these problems go away overnight. But we will get out of asylum hotels."

"We do need a solution for housing asylum seekers."

A Home Office spokesman said: "Under this pilot scheme, migrants who enter the UK illegally by small

boat can be detained and returned to France.

"Numbers are currently imbalanced due to a one-off operational complication on the French side, which prevented a flight carrying migrants from the UK from being transferred to France."

"Subsequent flights have returned migrants to France and will continue to do so, which will restore balance in the numbers."

● The Home Office is investigating after it was revealed that migrants are paying up to £13,000 for "fake jobs" in order to remain in the UK.

A probe says "visa agents" help arrivals falsify their right to a visa sponsorship, set up under then-Tory PM Boris Johnson in 2020, which allows them to stay.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Tory Chris Philp
blasted 'failure'



Poll shows voters are still furious with Labour over winter fuel fiasco

THE devastating impact to Labour's reputation of Rachel Reeves scrapping OAPs' universal entitlement to winter fuel payments is laid bare in a new poll.

Asked to name one thing Labour has done in power, voters put means testing the allowance top of the list. Long-time activist Dennis Reed said the axe had been a disaster for Keir Starmer's party.

Mr Reed, *inset*, added: "The winter fuel disgrace will go down in history as one of the biggest political blunders ever made by an incoming government. We warned at the time that this snap decision made by an unprepared government would define the whole Parliament. So it is proving."

"Labour made things worse by not reversing the decision once the extent of the opposition was clear, and depriving millions of pensioners of essential energy support. The Chancellor decided to show her strength by picking on the most vulnerable low-income group without a trade union but in fact revealed her naivety."

Polling from retired Tory peer Lord Ashcroft found that when voters were asked to name one thing the government has done, 13% listed the fuel cash means-testing - ahead of lifting the two-child benefit cap (12%), making U-turns (9%), failing to stop small boat migration (7%), raising firms' national insurance (7%) and pushing up taxes (7%).

Tory former Work and Pensions Secretary Thérèse Coffey said the fuel fiasco would not vanish from voters' memories: "Pensioners will never forgive this betrayal by Keir Starmer, nor forget his cynicism that the first promise he broke was to older people."

Ex-pensions minister Baroness Altmann said: "The dreadful decision...was a real shock - no warning, no time for pensioners to prepare, no mention in [Labour's] manifesto. Given how obviously wrong the policy was, how many

BY DAVID WILLIAMSON
Chief Political Commentator

people it affected and the extent of strain pensioners faced...it is hardly a surprise that it has stuck in people's minds."

Reform UK said: "The decision showed how utterly out of touch [Labour] is with the struggles of many vulnerable elderly. A Reform government would fully reinstate the winter fuel payment."

Just weeks after taking power in July 2024, Ms Reeves shocked the country by announcing only households on pension credit or certain other means-tested benefits would receive the money.

But in a U-turn last June it was announced that three in four pensioners in England and Wales would get it. This poll suggests

Labour has yet to recover from the damage.

Caroline Abrahams from Age UK said of the backlash: "The idea that significant numbers of older people would struggle to stay warm and well through the winter because they couldn't afford their fuel bills horrified most people."

"For all the talk about divisions along age and other lines, when it really mattered people came together in support of millions of older people who badly needed to keep their winter fuel payment."

The Department for Work and Pensions commented: "Supporting pensioners is a top priority and our commitment to the triple lock means millions of older people will see their state pension rise by up to £2,100."

"Nine million pensioners will also benefit from the winter fuel payment, and the £150 Warm Home Discount has been expanded to six million households, helping those who need it most."

Joanna Elson, chief executive of the Independent Age charity, pushed for extra help including "a national social tariff for water to ease the burden of rising bills".



'The winter fuel disgrace will go down in history as one of the biggest political blunders ever made by an incoming government'

Reeves' pubs relief is small beer for our high streets

RACHEL Reeves' partial U-turn on support for pubs has been branded "too little and far too late".

The Treasury caved in to fury yesterday by announcing pubs and music venues will get 15% off their business rates bills from April as part of a fresh support package.

But industry bosses from hotels, restaurants and cafes slammed the government as they will not receive extra help despite their own concerns over soaring tax bills.

Shadow Chancellor Mel Stride blasted: "This is far too little and far too late."

"It is a sticking plaster which delays the pain for a few, while most businesses despair as they see their bills continue to skyrocket."

"Our high streets need permanently lower business rates - not just for pubs but for the shops and hospitality venues that give our high streets life."

"These tax rises are a political choice, driven by higher welfare spending and are destroying businesses and jobs across the country."

BY STEPH SPYRO
Deputy Political Editor

Treasury minister Dan Tomlinson told the Commons the property tax bills for pubs and music venues in England will be reduced by 15% in 2026/27 and then "frozen in real terms" for the next two years.

He added that the support will be worth £1,650 for the average pub next year. Mr Tomlinson said: "This decision will mean that the amount of business rates paid by the pub sector as a whole will be lower in 2028/29."

"It will also apply to music venues too. Many are valued as pubs and it would not be right to draw the line."

The Treasury's intervention comes after an intensifying backlash from industry bosses and MPs over impending tax increases.

Andrew Goodacre, CEO

Mel Stride called it a 'sticking plaster'

of the British Independent Retailers Association, accused the Chancellor, who poured a pint at the Goldsmith Arms in South East London yesterday, of failing to listen to independent retailers who face identical pressures to pubs.

He described the support as "yet another half-baked U-turn" that benefits pubs while small retailers are "being flushed down the U-bend". Mr Goodacre added: "This is a poor decision based on politics rather than what is good to the local economy."

"The Chancellor has not listened. She says we need pubs and high streets to thrive."

"If she really believed and understood that, then we would be seeing similar support for the rest of the high street."

He said promises of yet another high street strategy were "empty words" for thousands



AFTER BUSINESS RATES RETHINK



Rachel Reeves marks her partial rates U-turn by pulling a pint at a pub in London yesterday

of independent retailers facing sharp rises in their rates bills over the next three years.

He added: "The Treasury states that pubs need support, having lost 7,000 since 2010.

"We have lost 17,000 independent shops in 2024 and are expecting a similar number when the figures are announced for 2025."

Earlier this week, Revolution bars group The Revel Collective said they were filing to appoint administrators due to low consumer confidence and higher costs.

A number of other hospitality groups, such as TGI Fridays UK and Leon, have also entered insolvency in recent months.

And there was disappointment on the Labour benches. MP Stella Creasy suggested that parents of young children will have nowhere to go except pubs unless the government extends its relief package to other hospitality venues.

She urged ministers to revisit the exclusion of cafes, soft plays and community centres from its plans,

claiming it could lead to their closure. Former Labour minister Jim McMahon also argued the wider hospitality industry "could and should have" benefited.

Tina McKenzie, the Federation of Small Businesses policy chair, warned that the government missed a critical chance to back struggling high street businesses.

She added: "Although this news will bring a welcome, temporary reprieve for pub and music venue owners, small firms across the rest of the hospitality, leisure and retail sectors – from your local green-grocer, hairdresser and cafe to the nail bar or florist – will be incredibly disappointed to not have been thrown any type of lifeline."

One pub landlord said the business rates cut is "not anywhere near enough".

Peter Collie, of The Horseshoe Inn, near London Bridge, said: "A lot of people's business rates have

gone up by huge amounts – 50%, 75% and some over 100%.

"So 15% – it's better than getting a slap around the face with a wet cod, I suppose. But that's about all it is, really.

"The problem is they just don't understand the damage they have done with the national insurance increase, now the business rates, which we haven't hit yet, and then you've got the minimum wage."

Meanwhile, the government also announced yesterday that pubs could stay open into the early hours during the men's World Cup, which kicks off on June 11.

Last orders may not be called until 1am or 2am so supporters can watch matches featuring the home nations taking place in North America, said Mr Tomlinson.

Wales and Northern Ireland hope to join England and Scotland via the play-offs.

OPINION: PAGE 12

Reform hopeful of a by-election Goodwin

REFORM UK's candidate at the Gorton and Denton by-election has declared the vote will be a "referendum on Keir Starmer".

MP Lee Anderson unveiled academic Matt Goodwin as the party's pick at a bar in the constituency yesterday.

Leader Nigel Farage vowed Reform would challenge the Prime Minister's "hopeless government" in the February 26 poll. Labour's ruling National Executive Committee sparked fury by blocking Manchester mayor Andy Burnham, *inset*, from standing in the seat.

Mr Goodwin, a political commentator, told gathered members he was "made by Manchester" saying he was "incredibly grateful" to the city.

In a rallying call to voters he said: "I will fight for you and make

BY AARON NEWBURY

sure you are heard, respected and never ignored again."

Mr Goodwin's parents worked for the NHS in the city, and he said he even delivered pizzas in the constituency as a young man.

Announcing his candidacy, Mr Goodwin declared: "This by-election is a referendum on Keir Starmer. It is a chance for the people of Gorton and Denton to have their say and make history."

The Green Party are expected to announce their candidate shortly.

Leader Zack Polanski said: "Reform are parachuting in a rent-an-extremist.

"This isn't about representing Gorton and Denton, it's about using this place as a platform for their careers. Manchester will show him the door."



Matt Goodwin will stand for Reform in Gorton and Denton

Commentator puts words into action

MATT Goodwin is a leading political thinker on the Right who has decided to quit the commentary box and get on the pitch.

As an academic he was among the highest profile thinkers who detected a populist resurgence with the potential to transform the politics of Britain and beyond.

However, he wrote that "merely accepting" the result of the Brexit referendum was "enough to make me an outcast" in universities.

There were opportunities for him as a media commentator who could explain the Brexit revolt against a europhile establishment.

In 2024 he gave up his professorship at the University of Kent and launched an online newsletter, which he says has over 90,000 regular readers.

He wants "free, dynamic, prosperous, family-oriented

BY DAVID WILLIAMSON
Chief Political Commentator

societies where ordinary people, not distant elites, are put first".

Mr Goodwin reached a nationwide audience on GB News, but now he must win over the constituents in Gorton and Denton.

He has roots in Manchester, including his steel worker grandfather, and his grandmother who worked at the University of Salford, which he attended.

Not only has Reform gained a tenacious campaigner, it has a sharp thinker who – if elected – will not waste opportunities to launch fire at Labour and the Tories.

His books include *Values, Voice and Virtue: The New British Politics and National Populism: The Revolt Against Liberal Democracy*.

He has now joined that revolt.

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Sir Keir Starmer with Xi Jinping in 2024

Don't be pathetic!

PM warned he must stand up to China during his visit

SIR Keir Starmer must stand up to China's Communist regime or risk looking "pathetic" on the global stage, Lord Patten has warned.

The former Hong Kong governor said the PM should say "exactly what he thinks" when he meets Chinese leader Xi Jinping tomorrow.

His demand comes as Sir Keir begins a high-stakes three-day visit to the country – the first visit by a UK PM since Theresa May in 2018.

Lord Patten said the Prime Minister should not "lean over backwards" to avoid offending China, adding: "The Chinese do business on exactly the same basis as everybody else."

And former security minister Tom Tugendhat told the Express: "The Chinese don't respond to weakness. They respond to strength. Showing a bit of steel and standing up to Beijing will produce far more than kowtowing in the hope of scraps and morsels."

Sir Keir will be joined by almost 60 business leaders – including from HSBC, GSK, Jaguar Land Rover and the National Theatre – as he seeks to improve relations with China.

The PM is confident he can pursue deals without upsetting US President Donald Trump.

But he is facing pressure from home

BY MARTYN BROWN Political Editor

to raise subjects including China's espionage activity, the treatment of the Uighur minority and the imprisonment of Jimmy Lai, a Hong Kong pro-democracy campaigner.

British national Mr Lai, 78, has been in detention for more than five years, much of that time in solitary confinement, having been arrested in 2020 under Hong Kong's new national security law.



Ex-Hong Kong governor Patten

Lord Patten, who governed Hong Kong from 1992 until it was handed over to China in 1997, said Mr Lai's case should be "one of the first things" Sir Keir brings up during his visit. "If he doesn't raise the Jimmy Lai case, he has been pathetic," he said.

Ministers have previously condemned the Chinese government for its treatment of Mr Lai.

Last month, following Mr Lai's conviction on sedition and conspiracy charges, Foreign Secretary Yvette Cooper called for his "immediate release". Former Conservative leader Sir Iain Duncan Smith called for the Prime Minister to cancel his trip in protest.

Sir Keir said: "Like it or not, China matters for the UK. A strategic and consistent relationship with them is firmly in our national interest."

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KEIR Starmer has a chance to be a hero as he jets off to China this week.

The PM could return with Jimmy Lai on the plane, or at least a deal that he will be freed from prison on humanitarian grounds.

Lai, a British citizen, is 78 and has serious health problems, from diabetes to heart issues, after five years held mostly in solitary confinement in Hong Kong's jails.

The pro-democracy advocate was found guilty on jumped-up national security charges in December.

He faces life in jail when sentencing is finally delivered later this year.

The Chinese Communist Party is punishing him for using his newspaper to push for universal suffrage to Hong Kong – for exercising the freedom of expression that both Britain and China are treaty-bound to protect.

China trashed that declaration and Hong Kong authorities crushing the pro-democracy movement led to Britain putting bilateral relations in

COMMENT

CHLOE CHEUNG

Hong Kong pro-democracy activist



the freezer. Starmer now wants a defrost. The city still holds over 600 political prisoners. What does the PM expect for his gesture of goodwill?

His City of London advisers claim Beijing holds the key to revitalising our economy and even reviving a golden era of Sino-British relations.

This is hogwash. That decade-long embrace of the Chinese party-state, led by David Cameron, left Britain huge bills for extracting surveillance gear from security networks.

Britain woke up to the fact that the CCP is not a responsible partner.

In any case, China accounts for just 3% of UK trade and has shown little interest in opening its markets to British professional services.

Returning with Lai, on the other hand, would be a legacy-defining feat.



Alex Pretti was shot dead

Family of ICE shooting nurse slams White House

BY CHRISTOPHER BUCKTIN

THE sister of Alex Pretti, the intensive care nurse shot dead by ICE agents in the US, has slammed the “lies” spread about him by the White House. Officials said Mr Pretti approached officers with a gun as they carried out an immigration enforcement operation in Minneapolis on Saturday, and resisted attempts to disarm him.

Verified footage shows the 37-year-old holding a mobile phone, not a firearm, in the moments before he was sprayed and tackled by agents.

But within hours White House officials described him as a “wannabe assassin” and a “domestic terrorist”.

Mr Pretti's sister Micayla said: “Hearing disgusting lies spread about my brother is gut-wrenching.

“All Alex ever wanted was to help...Even in his very last moments on this earth, he was simply trying to do just that.”

Mr Pretti's family said: “The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting. He was a good man.”

Officer dies on exercise

BY ADAM TOMS

AN “outstanding” British Army officer has died during a live firing exercise which took place in freezing conditions last weekend.

Captain Philip Gilbert Muldowney, 25, of 4th Regiment Royal Artillery, was killed on Sunday during an incident on the Otterburn Ranges in Northumberland in -5C.

Known as Gilbert, it is understood he died before an ambulance arrived despite the efforts of comrades to save him. The Army has launched an inquiry.

Commanding officer Lt Col Henry Waller paid tribute, saying: “Gilbert was an outstanding officer. He always led from the front.”



SOMERSET



DORSET



DEVON

Storm brings havoc

BY LUCY THORNTON

TRAPPED motorists had to be rescued from “danger to life” flooding yesterday as Storm Chandra drenched the nation.

A month's worth of rain fell in hours in some parts during the “multi-hazard” storm along with gales of up to 80mph and snow in the north. In total there were 113 flood warnings across the UK and more than 300 schools and colleges were forced to close.

Billy Vernon, 39, had to wade through water to get food for his kids in Axminster, Devon, as they sheltered upstairs in their flooded home. He said: “I had to get supplies – the water was up to my waist and everything in the kitchen has gone.”

Heavy snow blocked roads in Cumbria and County Durham. Firefighters in Devon and Somerset issued an alert after rescuing people from 25 vehicles in floodwater yesterday.

Horrendous

A red flood warning was issued for the Upper Frome in Dorset and the River Otter in Devon, which hit the highest levels on record.

Residents of Devon's Ottery St Mary had been urged to move family, pets and cars, if safe to do so, amid fears of “deep and fast-flowing water”. Honiton and Sidmouth MP Richard Foord said yesterday morning: “It has been a truly horrendous night.”

Devon and Cornwall Police warned yesterday of roads becoming impassable around Exeter and East and Mid Devon. They said the force had been experiencing an increase in reports of people coming up against floodwater and urged them not to drive through it.

The Met forecast Storm Chandra would clear last night with a few showers in the south, and winds in the north which would gradually ease.



DEVON

Flooding at Weycroft Bridge in Axminster



Billy Vernon walks down a flooded road with his shopping



DURHAM

Buckley bandwagon rolling on in Bafta nod for Hamnet



Hamnet star Jessie Buckley

JESSIE Buckley has continued her awards season hot streak with a Bafta nomination as best actress, in *Hamnet*.
Chloe Zhao's film has 11 Bafta nods – the most in the awards' history for a movie directed by a woman.
Jessie, 36, is so far unbeatable in the awards season, for playing William Shakespeare's wife Agnes Hathaway – historically known as Anne – in the adaptation of Maggie O'Farrell's novel about the death of their young son.
The Irish actress is also up for an Oscar and already has a string of trophies including a Golden Globe and a Critics' Choice award. *Hamnet's* Bafta categories include best film and outstanding British film plus best director. Paul Mescal, who plays the bard, is up for best supporting actor while co-star Emily Watson competes for the best supporting actress gong.
I Swear, a true story of growing up in 1980s Scotland with Tourette's, landed five nominations including best actor (Robert Aramayo). The Baftas will be presented at London's Royal Festival Hall on February 22.

BY LAURA HARDING

Picture: IAN VOGLER



Catherine puts hair in a plait and tops it with a cap for walk

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KATE BRAVES WINTER STORM

The all-weather Princess of Gales

THE Princess of Wales wraps up against the winter weather to join a mental health group on a walk in the Peak District as she highlights the healing power of nature.

Braving the heavy downpours and strong winds of Storm Chandra yesterday, caring Catherine visited projects in the North of England helping those who have experienced trauma, isolation and poor mental health.

Her first stop was to Family Action's Children's Trauma Therapy Service in Bradford, West Yorks, where she learned how creative therapies are helping children process complex trauma, such as adversity, abuse and traumatic bereavement.

Catherine spoke to counsellors

BY **EMILY FERGUSON** Royal Editor
and joined creative therapy sessions to understand how play can be a vehicle for healing.

She told staff at the centre, "It's probably been a lifeline for them in so many ways."

Crouching down to speak to a five-year-old girl whose therapist was helping her make a "box of wishes" to help her express her feelings, Catherine held the youngster's hand as the girl placed a special "potion" of glitter and winter into the box.

When the princess asked what the mixture was for, the girl said: "It keeps away the bad dreams."

Catherine turned to the girl's mother and said: "Lots of people need more of these." The princess

then picked up a shell which was also destined for the box and held it to her ear.

She told the girl: "Sometimes if you put them to your ear, you can hear the sea. That's what I like doing with shells. If you close your eyes you can sometimes imagine you're by the beach."

On her next stop, the princess met schoolgirls, pensioners and teenagers at Wakefield Trinity's rugby ground to hear how the club supports a range of ages.

Before leaving, she plaited her long hair so she was ready to face the elements for her walk in the hills with Mind Over Mountains, a charity offering professional mental health support through therapeutic outdoor experiences.

Having a laugh at Wakefield Trinity rugby club yesterday



Princess leaves rugby club with her hair plaited



Catherine shows girl how to hear sea through a shell



King's caring words for Holocaust families

BY **GILES SHELDRICK** Chief Reporter

THE King and Queen marked Holocaust Memorial day with a Buckingham Palace reception for survivors of the genocide in which six million Jews were killed.

Charles, who is patron of the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust, later lit candles with wife Camilla in a solemn act of remembrance on the 81st anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camps.

Guests at yesterday's reception included Helen Aronson, 98, one of just 750 people liberated from the Lodz ghetto in occupied Poland.

She was one of seven survivors whose portraits were commissioned by Charles in 2022. After viewing her portrait yesterday the monarch bent down to kiss wheelchair-bound Mrs Aronson, who politely asked how he was. "All the better for seeing you," he told her.

Other guests at the Palace yesterday included Rachel Levy, 95, a survivor of Bergen-Belsen, and celebrated cellist Anita Lasker-Wallfisch who survived Auschwitz by playing in the camp's orchestra. Last July, Charles visited the musician at her home in North London for her 100th birthday.

Speaking to the King in front of her own portrait, by coronation portrait painter Peter Kuhfeld, she told Charles: "You were so wonderful to come and see me." He joked: "It was a bit of a



The King with Helen Aronson, 98, and, inset left, Rachel Levy, 95

business." Then, gesturing to the painting, he told her: "He did me, you know."

Charles also met relatives of survivors who are no longer alive. They included Shary and Rafi Goldberg, the widow and son of Manfred Goldberg who died last year. Manfred, who was held at Stutthof camp in occupied Poland, was a staunch campaigner for Holocaust awareness.

In a sweet moment, Charles was introduced to Zigi Harrod, the two-year-old great-grandson of the late Zigi Shipper, another survivor of Stutthof and close

friend of Manfred, who died in 2023. As Charles crossed the room to meet him, little Zigi stood on a chair and called out: "Where's the King?"

"Hello," said Charles. "Hello back," said the toddler, presenting Charles with his toy monkey, Fergus.

Standing in front of the late Zigi's portrait, his daughter Lorraine Lawrence said of him and other late survivors: "They should all be with us today." Charles replied: "They are, in spirit."

Earlier, death camp survivor Mala

Tribich, 95, addressed the Cabinet in Downing Street with a plea to fight the resurgence of antisemitism.

She told ministers: "I'm here as a representative of the British Holocaust survivor community."

"Soon there will be no eyewitnesses left. That is why I ask not just to listen, but to become my witnesses."

Sir Keir Starmer said: "Together, we look back and challenge antisemitism wherever it appears. And ensure that 'never again' is a promise we uphold."

BBC'S 'HURTFUL' SNUB IN COVERAGE

BY **RICHARD ASHMORE**

BBC bosses have been criticised after the broadcaster failed to mention Jews in parts of its coverage of International Holocaust Remembrance Day yesterday.

The Beeb covered the day of sombre reflection over the murder of six million men, women and children in Nazi death camps during the Second World War, but some reports failed to mention that they were Jewish.

Presenter Jon Kay introduced a segment by saying it was a "day for remembering the six million people who were murdered by the Nazi regime".

Karen Pollock, of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said the omission was "especially hurtful, disrespectful and wrong". She said: "Ignoring that the victims were Jews is an abuse of the memory of the Holocaust and an insult to victims and survivors."

A BBC spokesman said last night: "There were references to Holocaust Memorial Day which were incorrectly worded, and for which we apologise."



DAILY EXPRESS

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Illegal immigration farce will cost Labour at polls

THIS government has no plan to tackle illegal immigration and furious voters will not forget this abject dereliction of duty by Sir Keir Starmer and his clueless team.

It is a true French farce that Britain has taken in more migrants from France than it has removed under the ludicrously titled one in, one out scheme.

At a time when the UK urgently needs to rearm and ensure communities can withstand horrific conflict, why are we converting more military sites into asylum accommodation?

Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood was tasked with succeeding where her predecessors had failed, but our borders remain in a state of dangerous chaos.

Confidence in the power of elected politicians to protect the country is being corroded every day this law-breaking continues. The absence of an effective deterrent means people smugglers can take money from desperate men and women and assure them that when they reach British soil there is zero chance of them being ejected.

The tension this scandal has created threatens to divide the country. Britons are not xenophobic and we are proud to provide sanctuary to heroes fleeing tyranny, but the abuse of our immigration and asylum system is costing us billions and sending out the fateful message that we cannot protect our shores.

France is taking us for fools and it is impossible to defend a government which has been so grotesquely and consistently outfoxed by Emmanuel Macron's team.

The people of Britain will give a thunderous verdict on Labour's ineptitude at the ballot box.

Pub crisis is deepening after rate discount woe

PUB landlords who hoped the Chancellor would rescue their livelihoods will be left bitterly disappointed by Rachel Reeves.

Across the nation, pubs are in crisis after successive tax raids and the surge in energy costs. Her business rate discount is only expected to aid the average pub by £1,650.

This is pathetic. Nearly 7,000 pubs have closed since 2010 and the wider hospitality sector is also in crisis.

Labour is emptying our high streets. If our town centres are hollowed out and our pubs, hotels and restaurants have closed, why will anyone visit the UK?

This destructive government has missed an opportunity to avert disaster. It must come back with a real solution to keep our communities alive.

Wishing Carol all the best

WHATEVER the weather, Carol Kirkwood brings sunshine into our homes as she tells us of the heatwaves and cold snaps coming our way.

It is almost as if she is the happiest family member at the breakfast table when she presents the weather each morning.

She will be greatly missed when she leaves our screens in April.

And she deserves an excellent rest – we hope she enjoys breakfast in bed.

No wonder many brave veterans now back Reform



Nigel Farage with new recruit Suella Braverman at the Veterans for Reform event

NIGEL Farage has pledged to defend Britain's military veterans against vexatious prosecutions brought by human rights lawyers and those who undermine our Armed Forces. At a rally on Monday, Farage and new Reform recruit Suella Braverman vowed to protect our elite forces – including the SAS – from being hounded through courts with spurious accusations under the aegis of an ECHR that cares more for terrorists than our soldiers.

It is a disgrace that troops who fought on the front line against IRA terrorists 50 years ago in Northern Ireland should now face prosecution and possible jail, whereas those same terrorists have been absolved from any punishment by the Good Friday Agreement. The 2023 Legacy Act was intended to protect ex-servicemen from prosecution – but the Labour government in 2024 failed to enact it.

Around 600 civil cases are currently hanging over former soldiers who were lawfully deployed in Northern Ireland. It is a betrayal of their military service that says it all about the left-wing prejudices of our legal system and the lawyer-politicians in charge.

ARMY veteran Dennis Hutchings was 80 and suffering terminal kidney failure and heart disease when he was flown to Belfast to face trial over a conviction. He wanted to clear his name but the stress hastened his death from Covid during the trial. "Dennis was an extremely brave man," said his lawyer. "He could have stopped the process for him at any time, but he thought it was important no one again should have to go through what he went through."

To resounding applause at the Veterans for Reform event this week, Farage promised to end all current prosecutions of



Tim Newark
Political commentator

British veterans and to stop future legal action. Former Home Secretary Braverman added her own personal account of frustration with the skewed legal system. Seeking to pull out from the ECHR strait-jacket, she found many Tories were willing to support her in private but when it came to putting their heads above the parapet, they chickened out. "No backbone, no resolve," she said as she called time on Tory "betrayals and lies".

If the Conservatives are still baffled by their continuing lack of support, that is the key moment when they let down so many voters. Again and again, they used the excuse of the supranational ECHR to fail to deliver any of the necessary curtailments of illegal migration but refused to contemplate leaving it. Why on earth would you vote for a party that

embraced its own impotence? As Farage quite rightly asked: "How is it that an illegal immigrant is put at the top of the list for housing above veterans?" Indeed, veterans make up a high proportion of homeless people and yet their needs always appear to come second to those who've broken the law to enter our country illegally.

It's amazing the current government cannot see the catastrophic impact such a toxic attitude is having on the recruitment of future soldiers. Senior SAS officers have questioned why the best recruits would take on the potential legal quagmire of special operations abroad. Lawfare is now a serious threat to our national security as elite soldiers face possible prosecution over split-second battlefield decisions. The problem is so bad that reservists are being offered

positions in the SAS. Again and again, Labour is weakening our defences at home and abroad.

With wide-open borders allowing criminals and terrorists into our land, idiotic decisions to hand back strategically important military bases, and now ongoing legal threats to our finest service personnel, left-wing lawyer politicians are failing to protect our country.

DONALD Trump admits our soldiers are "among the greatest of all warriors", so it's high time Sir Keir Starmer and his legal buddies start recognising that and treating our veterans with the respect and support that they deserve.

Farage acknowledged this by calling for a minute's silence to remember the fallen at the end of his rally. A piper then played everyone off the stage – a stirring note of pride in our uniquely excellent Armed Forces. Yet again, Reform seems to be better than our complacent government at gauging the national sentiment when it comes to our brave servicemen and women.

'Lawfare is now a threat to our national security'

Vanessa Feltz

FROM THE HEART

Next December 10 is Si's meal ticket

ALL three generations of my family were transfixed by Simon Cowell: The Next Act on Netflix.

Some critics, dismissed by Simon as "the people paid to watch the show, not the people who really watch it" have labelled it "anachronistic" but they are mealy-mouthed. The premise is riveting. At 66 Simon



- seen striding through his opulent homes, sparring with partner Lauren and grief-stricken at the news of Liam Payne's death - wants another crack at forming a boyband of One Direction dimensions.

Does his formula of auditions and consultations with musical luminaries still have what it takes, and will anyone notice or care? Spoiler alert: tickets to December 10's first live dates in mid-February in five cities sold out in under a minute.

Holden on to her naked ambition

AMANDA Holden reveals when the temperature rose, she cooked a roast dinner in the altogether. Spirited discussion about doing chores in the nude erupted. Yours truly would bathe fully clothed if I could. I can't think of anything worse than having my bits on show, even when the only person around to see them is me. Others feel more relaxed with privates on parade.

One enchanting individual who adores the feeling of the wind on his important little places recommends "keeping a sarong near the front door in case the postman calls".

Lazy parents must be read the riot act

THERE'S a hot contender for most disconcerting phrase of the year right up there alongside Brooklyn Beckham's now infamous "my mum danced very inappropriately on me". A survey of primary school staff by early years charity Kindred Squared, reveals 28% of Britain's five-year-olds "don't know how to use books".

Cue bafflement among the literate. We've never seen the words "use" and "book" in the same sentence unless an Instagram Philistine is advocating "styling" old tomes by putting them in piles with scented candles and vases of fake flowers on top.

We are nonplussed. Does anyone "use" a book? Dickens' Great Expectations is not a gadget. Jane Austen's Persuasion doesn't come with a manual explaining how it works. We read for solace, entertainment, comfort, humour, horror and diversion but we don't "use" books, we read them. It's simple, hold them the right way up, open the cover and begin at the beginning.

Tragically, for nearly a third of five-year-olds, there's nothing obvious, familiar or reassuring about reading. Hand them a book and they are flummoxed. Desperate to coax the hard flat object into life, they start swiping and tapping the pages, searching in vain for the buzzing, multi-coloured interactive, addictive response they have come to expect from screens. The poor little mites have been given devices since early infancy and spent hours every day scrolling and consuming online content.

They've been baby-sat by Silicon Valley-generated technology. They have learned to gawp in a trance-like state. Books never feature in their lives. If they did, they'd know every picture tells a story and every sentence unleashes that tale into a special stratospheric stratum of the imagination over which Mark Zuckerberg and Bill Gates have no control.

Teachers warn they are faced with five-year-olds still in nappies, unable to wield a knife and fork, communicating in infantile monosyllables.

IMAGINE attempting to teach a class of mixed-ability newbies and having to break off every few minutes to change full diapers. Obviously, their frustration is at boiling point. How much longer can we carry on inflicting this impossible burden on our teachers and pretending that poor parenting is a side-effect of Covid? These kids were born after the pandemic.

We need pre-school parenting classes rolled out urgently, government-endorsed guidelines on pre-school screen use and an unbreakable rule that unless they have special needs, toilet training is a prerequisite for starting school.

ancient. Poor Piers Morgan, coping with the aftermath of his fall and hip replacement, has cause for similar concern.

His gorgeous wife Celia Walden is a glamorous 50 to his out of commission 60. Waking up at 4am, with his "grabber" out of reach and unable to put on the hospital slipper socks

he needed for a non-slip hobble down the stairs on crutches, he was forced to wake Celia and ask her to put his socks on.

He writes tellingly of, "the eerily ominous Hitchcock-like tinge to her silence that... will haunt me for a long time." If you are contemplating an age gap liaison, be very afraid.



Nigella appetiser passes taste test

THE secret is out - Nigella Lawson, 66, has signed on the Bake Off dotted line and will slide saucily and stylishly into Prue Leith's sneakers.

I lunched with the domestic goddess one summer's day at the legendary River Cafe and, based on that sumptuous meal alone, can state with consummate conviction that she was born for the role. Not only does she savour every morsel, quiz the waiter about the provenance of the broccoli and know everything there is to know about esoteric ingredients, harmonious food combinations and the ideal libations with which to wash them down, she also commands a vocabulary so extensive and suggestive she'll wow viewers with poetic verdicts worlds beyond "delicious", "tasty", and, "full of flavour".

Brace yourselves for "toothsome" "deliquescent" "lubricious" "unquent" and epicurean escapades through the exotic avenues of luxuriant lexicography.

PICKING the perfect moment to bow out of a stratospheric success gracefully is an art. The late Dale Winton's favourite maxim was: "Never quit the hit!"

Prue Leith has shown us how it's done. She is exiting the Bake Off tent not because she's bored but because she's in the market for adventure. As she puts it: "I'm 86 for goodness' sake. There's so much I'd like to do, not least spend

summers in my garden." With her usual charm, Prue wishes her successor fabulous fun and makes certain no one thinks she's contemplating retirement.

She'll be writing, broadcasting and supporting charitable causes and - here's the crucial bit - "whatever I do, I hope I do it with relish". Thank you Prue for handing us the key to a life well-lived. Don't go through the motions. As my producer on Vanessa said when Prue ignited the show with her humour and empathy: "When I grow up, I want to be Prue."



MIND THE GAP! AGE IS JUST A NUMBER UNTIL YOU START TO LOSE YOUR SOCKS APPEAL

AGE gap relationships are alluring. I regrettably succumbed to one myself. All is adventure and age a mere number until something goes awry. I did my utmost to conceal harrowing menopausal symptoms from my 10 years younger swain, smiling through sauna-style hot flushes lest he think me





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Frances Millar

To be frank...



DISCRIMINATION against working-class people should be illegal, according to a new report. Classism is on a par with racism and religious prejudice, and should be treated just as seriously. The study found there is a staggering imbalance in the arts.

Without a financial safety net it has become virtually impossible to succeed, leaving the sector dominated by the middle and upper classes. For every Danny Dyer there are at least 20 privately educated Tom Hiddleston-types, while film and TV credits are now an astonishing 50% longer because of the sheer volume of double and triple-barrel names. OK, I made that up, but the fact that it sounds plausible is cause for concern.

It's become an industry for people who can afford to perform an ironic one-man show called What Am I Doing With My Life? at a fringe theatre for a month, and bum about waiting for a big break.

Class is a delicate issue, so let me approach it with a joke: Two fish swim past another fish heading the other way. The fish says: "Lovely water today." The other two carry on, then one says: "What the hell is water?" That, for me, sums it up.

Class is invisible yet glaringly obvious, unspoken yet heavily accented, omnipresent and yet, you only notice it when you bump up against it.

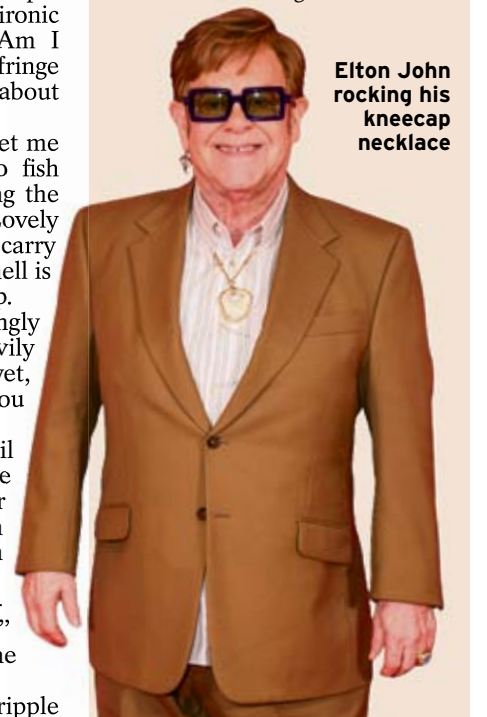
I was blissfully unaware until my early 20s, because everyone I knew till then was more or less the same. Some lived in bigger houses, or went on fancy holidays, but we shared the same ecosystem. Lower-middle, or what I call "normal" is the water I swim in, and the temperature is fine.

The first time I felt an icy ripple was in Oxford when I was at drama school. On a night out in town, a central casting toff who looked like a boiled ham in red jeans and a blazer, pointed at me and honked: "Do you go to Brookes?" I didn't have time to answer before his equally plummy friend pulled him away, "Sorry, he's taking the mick out of everyone tonight."

It took me a minute to process. His intention was, presumably, to

ELTON John kept a macabre souvenir from his double kneecap replacement surgery. After having both kneecaps replaced in 2024, the 78-year-old asked if he could keep the bones, as you do. He then turned them into a necklace. "When I had my kneecaps removed, the left one first and then the right, I asked my surgeon if I could keep the kneecaps, which he was rather startled about," he said. From there, he contacted high-end jeweller Theo Fennell and told him to do whatever he wanted.

They were encased with gold, and engraved in Latin: "I will no longer bow to any man." Cannot believe he didn't have: "I'm Still Standing."



Elton John rocking his kneecap necklace

prod at my insecurities but as I didn't go to Oxford nor Brookes (a perfectly decent university), I didn't have any.

Still, I have never forgotten it. Classism has a nasty sting, but making it a protected characteristic is a slippery slope. One where your dodgy Michael Caine impression could end up being a hate crime. Cor blimey.

★ IT WAS about as appetising as a collapsed soufflé sweating under studio lights, but the new series of The Great British Bake Off is suddenly looking rather tasty. The "domestic goddess" herself is replacing Prue Leith as a judge and one suspects the producers are breathing a sigh of relief. Nigella Lawson may well have saved it from the chop. Once upon a time I was an avid viewer, but drifted away after it moved to Channel 4. Sandi Toksvig was as funny as a curdled egg, and Matt Lucas fell flat. With Nigella in the tent, though, expect a return to form and innuendo so thick you could spread it with a palette knife. Soggy bottoms, hot buns, oozing cream, pillowy sponges. Sorry, Paul, but you can keep your Hollywood handshake.

frances.millar@express.co.uk



Carol on TV in 2005, left, and 2022. Below left, Breaking the news to Jon and Sally on BBC Breakfast. Weather presenter in her 20s, below



'I love my job but I love my husband more'

Carol Kirkwood quits BBC Breakfast

WEATHER presenter Carol Kirkwood struggled to hold back tears as she announced she is quitting the BBC to spend more time with her husband.

Carol, 63, who will depart in April, has been at the BBC for 28 years and the main weather presenter on BBC Breakfast since 2010.

Joining presenters Sally Nugent and Jon Kay on the sofa yesterday, she said: "I am going to be leaving."

"It's really, really hard for me to say this. I love my job. I love all of you guys, my weather colleagues, every department I work with and, of course, all the viewers I've been so engaged with for many years. But it's great."

Carol added: "I'm going to be spending more time with Steve, my gorgeous husband. We married a couple of years ago but we are like ships passing in the night, so I'm so looking forward to doing that."

She continued: "I love my job. I've loved working at the BBC. But I love my husband more than my job. More than anyone!"

As her voice began to break, the presenter added: "I didn't want to

BY MARK JEFFERIES

get emotional, but you two are my friends and I love you dearly, so I am sorry I did."

Carol, from Morar on the west coast of Scotland, joined the BBC in 1998 and has played an integral role in major national events including reporting on the sunshine and showers at Wimbledon, the Chelsea Flower Show and Royal Ascot.

She married Steve Randall, a police officer, in 2023.

Romantic

Carol previously told Prima magazine he was "extremely handsome" and "always making me laugh", adding: "He always makes me a cup of tea before I go to work in the morning, which is very romantic – it's 2.45am!"

Telling Sally and Jon yesterday that they want to travel, she joked: "What is a lie-in? I have no idea!"

In a statement released by the BBC, Carol told viewers: "It's been an absolute privilege to bring you the weather every day. And to

those watching and listening at home: thank you for all the kindness you have shown me over the years, being part of your mornings has been a joy."

Carol did her meteorological training at the Weather Channel, the Met Office and the BBC before joining the BBC Weather Centre in April 1998.

She has repeatedly been named best TV weather presenter by the Television and Radio Industries Club.

In 2015 she competed in Strictly, reaching week eight with professional partner Pasha Kovalev.

Jonathan Munro, interim chief executive at BBC News and Current Affairs, said: "Carol has set the gold standard for our accurate, valued journalism, always delivered with an appropriately sunny outlook."

"She will be greatly missed by teams across the BBC. We wish her all the best for the future."

Former BBC Breakfast host Dan Walker said: "End of an era. I still get asked what Carol is like in real life and she is just the same lovely person you see on the telly."

OPINION: PAGE 12

Carol in Salford yesterday and, right, with her husband Steve



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Brenda in 1998 film *Little Voice*; below, young Brenda, one of nine children

BY MARK JEFFERIES

SHE first starred on TV in 1980 and ended her longest ever role as ITV detective Vera in 2024 but Brenda Blethyn has no thoughts of retirement, despite the fact she will turn 80 next month.

The critically acclaimed actress says: "I'm lucky to have been working all this time. When I was 65, I was thinking, 'Do I retire now? Maybe that's what I'm supposed to do?'"

"And then Vera came along. Now I'm nearly 80 and I'm not thinking about retiring at all but perhaps I will cut back a bit and spend more time at home."

In an interview with Prima magazine, Brenda also said that despite her many years in the business, she still has impostor syndrome sometimes.

The actress, who made her TV debut in Mike Leigh's *Grown Ups* in 1980, was asked what she has learnt from her film, TV and theatre career.

She told the magazine: "I regret that I didn't speak up more, for fear of being ridiculed."

"I suppose I'm someone with imposter syndrome. I'm not as bad as I was, but I certainly had it when I was younger, and I wish I'd kicked that into touch. On *A Woman of Substance*, I only had it in as much as I'd just come off Vera where I could rule the roost."

Outfits

Brenda has just finished filming new Channel 4 drama *A Woman Of Substance*, playing Emma Harte, with Jessica Reynolds playing the younger version of the character. In the reimagining of a drama first made 40 years ago, Emma is a Yorkshire housemaid who goes on an incredible journey and ends up becoming the world's richest woman and a 20th century feminist icon.

"After Vera, playing this role [Emma Harte] was a bit of a rags to riches tale for me, too," says Brenda. "They're both strong women, but they're very different kettles of fish."

"It was lovely to dress up in nice clothes for a change. The outfits were exquisite and very different to Vera's wardrobe, although a lot of her costumes were actually rather nice - it was just the way she wore them. I've kept quite a few of her blouses."

"I grew up as one of nine children and I know what hardship is, so this story resonated with me. I thought about them a lot when we were making the series."

"My parents didn't have two



With husband Michael Mayhew in 2013

ha'pennys to rub together. Dad was a chauffeur for this big rich family and my mum worked in service in the house - she progressed from skivvy in the kitchen, just as young Emma did, to become a lady's maid."

Brenda, who is married to art director Michael Mayhew, herself made a successful rise as an actress, though slightly late in life.

She grew up in Ramsgate in Kent, the youngest of nine children. Her mother Louisa worked

BRENDA BLETHYN ON TURNING 80

I'm lucky to have been working for so long...I have no plans to retire



Brenda as Vera in ITV series; left, with Marnie Jean-Baptiste in 1995 film *Secrets & Lies*



as a maid and her father William was a mechanic before the Second World War. She first fell in love with acting during childhood trips to the cinema and taking part in an amateur dramatics club.

Brenda worked in a bank and as a bookkeeper for British Rail, before getting her chance in an amateur dramatics society which needed an actress for a contest.

She went on to study at the Guildford School of Acting and subsequently joined the Royal

National Theatre in the mid-1970s. Brenda was then cast in 1980 for the BBC play *Grown Ups* and she credits screenwriter Leigh with developing her acting method.

Criticism

Her movie debut was in Nicolas Roeg's *The Witches* and this was followed by Robert Redford's *A River Runs Through It*, playing Brad Pitt's mother. A career highlight was her first Oscar nomination,

for Leigh's *Secrets & Lies* in which she played working class Cynthia who connects with the daughter she gave up for adoption. Perhaps it is her background that keeps her down to earth and unaffected by criticism.

She says: "You wouldn't think there was a further place to go down from Vera, in terms of vanity, but a review of *Dragonfly* [Brenda's recent drama] said, 'Brenda, bless her, she's let herself go, she's aged so much, she could

hardly walk around the kitchen.' They couldn't have paid me a better compliment.

"I never, ever think about how I look for a part. When I made *Secrets & Lies*, someone said, 'How do you feel when you see yourself looking so awful on the screen?' I said, 'Well, I don't see me. I see her.'"

While her new period drama is sure to draw praise, Brenda will still be Vera to many. The series ran for 14 years before she hung up

Read the full interview in the March issue of *Prima*, on sale now

her trench coat and hat as DCI Vera Stanhope. She said: "I miss the assuredness I had with Vera."

"I'd been doing it for so long, and I knew the character better than any guest writers who'd sometimes get something wrong as they hadn't seen the previous scenarios. I'm rather proud of her. She's like an old friend."

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WINTER'S HERE. IT'S OK, SO ARE WE.

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BY LUCY THORNTON

A SURVIVOR of the Nottingham attacks has warned somebody else will die soon if more is not done to improve NHS mental health services.

Wayne Birkett, 62, was one of six people attacked by Valdo Calocane, who had paranoid schizophrenia, in the city in June 2023.

Students Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar, both 19, and caretaker Ian Coates, 65, were stabbed to death.

Mr Birkett was one of three pedestrians Calocane tried to run over in a van he had stolen from Mr Coates.

Hit from behind and catapulted into the air, Mr Birkett was so badly injured doctors put him into a coma.

The former forklift driver's memory was almost wiped out and he said he had been living in "nightmare" pain ever since.

He added: "I've had to learn how to read and write...how to talk to people, how to use a phone."

A public inquiry into the attacks is due to begin next month.

Mr Birkett told Sky News: "I think something needs to be done because somebody else is going to die soon, very soon."

He went on: "By letting [Calocane] out... they have let us down. More money needs to be spent on it.

"Someone has to take the blame for this man coming out and killing those poor students and poor Ian Coates and then trying to kill me."

Calocane, 34, had been under the care of Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Found-



Mentally ill killer Valdo Calocane has now been detained in hospital indefinitely

ation Trust's mental health services between May 2020 and September 2022. He was sectioned four times in under two years and discharged by the trust months before the attacks.

Calocane, of Nottingham, was charged with three counts of murder and three of attempted murder.

The CPS accepted his guilty pleas to manslaughter by diminished responsibility and attempted murder after hearing expert psychiatrists' reports on his mental state.

He was sentenced to an indefinite hospital order in January 2024.

A Care Quality Commission (CQC) report into Nottinghamshire Healthcare trust's mental health services was published earlier this month.

The trust was found to have breached regulations about how it was managed and has been asked to provide an action plan.

Seven of the trust's 18 services were rated as requiring improvement, including five mental health services. Mr Birkett is angry he was not told of the CQC's report in advance of its release.

He is due to meet Health Secretary Wes Streeting next week.

He and lawyer Greg Almond – who also represents a second survivor, Sharon Miller – are calling for surviving victims to be included in the inquiry. Mr Almond said: "I expect [Mr Streeting] to listen to our concerns. I expect him to set out a plan as to what the government intends to do.

"It's not as if this hasn't been notified before – this further report just further emphasises that.

"And we don't want to have another tragedy on the streets of Nottingham or any-

'Things have to change because someone else is going to die soon'

Nottingham attacks survivor's warning after failings in NHS mental health services

Wayne Birkett was badly injured in the attack



Police forensics officers at scene



Stabbing victims Ian Coates, Barnaby Webber and Grace O'Malley-Kumar

where else in the country." The public inquiry, chaired by former senior circuit judge Deborah Taylor, is set to start on February 23 and aims to report back within two years.

Mr Almond said: "We've got a real hope that the inquiry will deliver the answers that we need."

Reflecting on the CQC report's findings, Mr Almond said: "The people of Nottingham need to be clear that their NHS is safe and that they're safe to go

about their daily business in Nottingham without fear of something like this happening again."

Devastating

Jenny Wilkes, the Care Quality Commission's interim director of mental health, said: "We continue to extend our deepest sympathies to everyone affected by the devastating attack that took place in Nottingham in June 2023. The

report published on January 14 is on our findings from a trust-wide well-led review in September 2025 to assess the leadership at Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

"This follows a programme of assessments recommended by our review of the trust published in 2024.

"Since publishing this report, we have made contact with lawyers for survivors of the attack and are arranging to meet with them."



Penelope Cruz takes a selfie with Dua Lipa star as Claire Foy looks on

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‘Heartbroken passing of our Traitors joint

BY JORDAN LLOYD BECK

THE Traitors winner Rachel Duffy yesterday announced the death of her mother just days after the finale.

The 43-year-old took home half of the £95,750 prize pot alongside Stephen Libby on the BBC show – and had vowed to spend the cash to “make memories” with Anne, 70, who had dementia.

Rachel posted on Instagram: “We are heartbroken to share the passing of our beautiful wee mummy.” She did not give any details but added: “We kindly ask for privacy as our family grieves during this difficult time.”

In a poignant snap shared during the show, Anne was seen proudly holding up a T-shirt declaring: “My daughter’s a traitor.” Just before



Anne with special T-shirt and, inset, Rachel

entering the programme, Rachel admitted that her mum was her inspiration to sign up for it. And she had previously revealed that she would

Dua Lipa is a pop of colour as she arrives for the Chanel show. Far left, Nicole Kidman. Left, Claire Foy. Below, Jennifer Lawrence

Dua Lipa brings all the lava for Chanel with hot couture

DUA Lipa sets Paris Fashion Week alight in a fiery graphic print skirt suit with matching bag.

The Levitating singer's chic molten lava ensemble was a hot couture nod to designer Matthieu Blazy and his showcase for Chanel. And it provided a dazzling contrast with her fellow front row guests.

They included Penelope Cruz in a black outfit, the Spanish actress delighting in grabbing a selfie with the British pop star, while H is for Hawk actress

Claire Foy wore a brown leather mac over a black rollneck jumper. Meanwhile, Hollywood favourite Nicole Kidman went for a monochrome look with feather boa detailing from the French fashion house.

The spring 2026 collection was Blazy's first haute couture show for Chanel since being made creative director in 2024.

Meanwhile, over at Dior, Jennifer Lawrence had a more relaxed approach in jeans and a vest, adding drama with oversized furry cuffs on her black coat.



to share the wee mummy' winner Rachel's sad news

use her winnings to treat Anne – who also had Parkinson's – to a holiday. Mum-of-three Rachel, from Newry in Northern Ireland, said: "I would make memories with the most important people in my life.

"My mum has dementia, and she wants to go on a holiday as she used to go on holidays all the time before my dad passed. That's all she wants.

"I just want to create memories with her whilst I'm still lucky enough to have her." Rachel had revealed Anne enjoyed watching the series – hosted by Claudia Winkleman – even though she did not necessarily understand all of the treacherous goings-on. After winning £47,875 on Friday's

show, she said: "I rang my mummy this morning...I can't wait to come home and give her a big hug and say what will we do?"

"Anything you want let's go do it.. so yeah as long as I get to spoil my family that's all I care about. She didn't get all the twists and the turns but she's very proud."

Talking about her beloved mum, Rachel added: "Mummy was just 47 when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's and now faces dementia but still amazes me and my family every single day. Everything she has done for me and my four siblings is nothing short of incredible. We are so proud to call her our mum."

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IT takes me just a few minutes after arriving in the sleepy Norfolk village of Wolferton to discover what residents really think of their deeply controversial new neighbour, Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor. The disgraced former Duke of York is moving to the ramshackle and isolated Marsh Farm, on the Sandringham Estate, after being stripped of his royal titles following the Jeffrey Epstein scandal.

Buried down a desolate single-track road, it is one of the remotest places you could imagine – and clearly a breathtaking come-down for someone used to a gilded life of luxury. While it has a rural charm, many of the estate's properties seem old, dilapidated and in need of repair. Builders and even a Sky TV engineer have been seen at the site carrying out extensive renovation work.

Nestled next to a nature reserve, Wolferton's outdoor beauty is second to none, yet a world away from the glitz and glamour of Andrew's previous home of Royal Lodge, Windsor.

Visiting to learn more about the tiny village of about 50 houses that the shamed ex-prince will soon call home, I bump into a resident out for her morning run.

After telling me how peaceful Wolferton is and how deeply respectful everyone is of it being King Charles's country retreat, I carry on with my walk when I notice her running back towards me, trying to get my attention. She has something important to say.

"I just want to say that I think Andrew is an absolute disgrace," she fumes. "We live among the royals, and everyone is very respectful of that."

"With the greatest respect to the Royal Family, I think it will spoil the village."

"I'm disappointed that he's been moved within the village when the Crown Estate has other places. They could've put him somewhere away from it."

"There are going to be a lot of paparazzi, whereas this has always been such a quiet, private, peaceful place. We got a taste of it when the [late] Queen died. It's going to change life around here, and I'm not the only one who feels that way."

Her outburst sets the tone for my conversations over the next few hours, with residents united in their opinion: we don't want him here.

YOU can see the attraction Wolferton holds for someone who just wants to disappear into obscurity after being shamed by accusations of sexual abuse, which Andrew strenuously denies. There are no shops where you might have awkward conversations with disapproving neighbours while buying a pint of milk, with only one or two people walking about at any one time.

It is so quiet you could hear a pin drop. There is a social club opposite the now-disused Wolferton station, but it is highly unlikely Andrew will have his eyes down for bingo on the first Sunday of every month or take part in games of cribbage or darts on Thursday evenings.

He could join Wolferton Bowls Club between April and September, but is more known for his interest in golf.

The nearest club, several miles away, has not said whether it

Pictures: PHIL HARRIS



Marsh Farm in the village of Wolferton, above

would accept him as a member. There are no places to eat or get a takeaway in the village, and the nearest Pizza Express – where he famously dined with his daughters Beatrice and Eugenie in Woking – is a 20-minute drive away in King's Lynn.

Horse riding is another of Andrew's famous pastimes, but Sandringham councillor Tony Bubb says: "You hardly ever see any horses around here. I can't remember the last time I saw anybody riding a horse."

An organiser for Sandringham Pleasure Ride, a twice-annual event on the royal estate, suggests he could join in, saying: "Everyone is welcome."

But the slow pace of life begs the question: how on earth will an ex-prince used to high society parties spend his time?

Philip Sheppard, 61, from nearby Ingoldisthorpe, who comes to

Wolferton once a week to walk his dog and knows a few people who live in the area, says: "What he's going to do around here, I really don't know. He's going to be a bit bored and isolated, I'd have thought."

"I don't think it'll do his health much good. The fact he won't have Fergie to be a regular support will really have an effect on him."

Many of Andrew's new neighbours are workers or ex-staff on the Sandringham estate, meaning that people who were once effectively his servants are now his equals. They might have been expected to roll out the red carpet for him in the past, but not so now.

"They just don't want him here," says Philip. "They just think it's going to be a nuisance and a great bother. You'll have press and photographers. They're worried about extra traffic."

"People are treating it as a real kind of nuisance and a bit of an unwelcome addition to the royal residence."

Wolferton residents and visitors are no

strangers to bumping into members of the Royal Family – the late Queen was regularly seen driving through the village in her Range Rover, while Prince Philip and Prince Edward have both stopped to chat with locals.

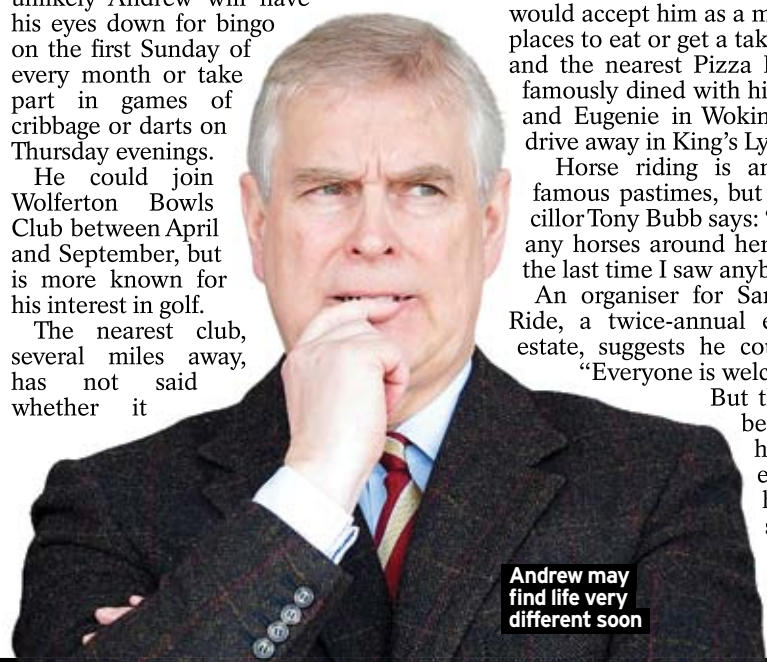
But residents seem to be nervous about a chance encounter with Andrew, who is frequently described by commentators as exuding entitlement. "My wife said, 'I hope he doesn't do his shopping in the local Co-op,'" says Philip of the supermarket three miles away in Dersingham.

Residents describe Wolferton as a "tight-knit" community with a "good community feel".

"It's very self-contained. It's a place where people look out for each other," says one.

Stephen Merryweather, 73, from King's Lynn, visiting with his wife Vivianne, 78, adds: "It's a pleasant area, very quiet. You see so much wildlife. It's very exclusive."

But Tony suggests that someone with Andrew's chequered reputation would find it difficult to ingratiate themselves with the



Andrew may find life very different soon

DON'T EXPECT A PRINCELY WELCOME

Ahead of Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor's arrival at Marsh Farm, his new neighbours in Wolferton reveal their fears to
ANDREW PAPWORTH



neighbours. "The indigenous locals are fairly hard to get to know," he explains. "And the ones that move in don't really know anybody, so they tend to keep themselves to themselves."

One Dersingham resident who brings her children to a nursery in Wolferton will certainly be difficult to win over.

"I don't like him," she says bluntly. "No one wants him. Everyone is saying that we don't want him here. Everyone knows everyone, and everyone has got the same thoughts."

NEARBY resident Nancy Rothery thinks life in Norfolk will be a "huge adjustment" for the eighth in line to the throne. "It's a different lifestyle from what he's used to," says the 65-year-old. "I imagine he'll have far less flexibility to live as he did previously."

Her husband Craig, 60, adds: "We lived in

London for 20 years, and we found it an adjustment living in Norfolk, in terms of what you can do and facilities for residents. But it's a beautiful part of the country."

The couple believe there are "far worse places" to be banished to, with miles of idyllic walking routes to enjoy and decades of royal history.

Sandringham hosts one of the UK's most picturesque Parkruns on a Saturday morning, although Andrew is not known for being a keen jogger.

The 65-year-old has spoken about his eclectic taste in music, so could join the crowds for Eric Clapton on the Sandringham estate on August 23 as part of the Heritage Live series of concerts.

However, Garry Stewart, 72, visiting Sandringham with his wife Mel, 71, and dog Georgie, says: "I don't think you'll see him wander about among the crowds."

"He'll just keep himself to himself. Whether he'll be here a long time, I don't know."

Natalie, another local resident, thinks

"he'll be lonely". She adds: "It's 100 miles from London, where all the contacts he's got left are and his family. It's a tight little community. I imagine it's going to have a detrimental effect."

"He's going to keep a low profile. Everyone knows his history, and he's not well received."

But Bruce McEwan, a runner who has been jogging in Wolferton for nearly 60 years, believes Andrew should be left to get on with his new life in Norfolk.

The 79-year-old, who was on a three-mile run around Dersingham Bog, often bumped into Prince Philip and regularly enjoyed a chat with the late Queen's husband.

"It's beautiful, just fantastic – the squirrels, the birds, the wildlife, everything about it," he remarks about Wolferton.

"I'll have my ashes spread here. There are an awful lot of houses that belong to the workers. I think the Royal Family give quite a lot back. This business about Andrew, I just



Garry and Mel Stewart predict a low profile

think leave it alone. They've got the meat off the bone.

"From Andrew's point of view, it's a good place to be alone. You wouldn't imagine he'd want to bump into anyone. I think he will just disappear."

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Officer 'with cop station phobia' sues Met for £1m

BY PAUL KEOGH

AN ex-police officer is suing the Met force for £1million compensation, claiming she developed a phobia of police stations after repeated exposure to "harrowing" scenes.

Kirstie Coy-Martin says her mental health was ruined by years of probing crimes against children, including their death. She left abuse work in 2016, taking a mostly home-based job analysing CCTV film.

She claims her career was ended in 2023 by "triggering" of PTSD via regular events including being sent papers with a logo of a baby's foot.

Ms Coy-Martin says a panic attack was brought on by her being told to attend a station, then "excessive stress" led to a breakdown. She was retired due to ill-health.

The 52-year-old, from Chichester, West Sussex, is now suing at Central London county court, saying the Met breached the duty of care it owed.

Her lawyers say it ought to have known of the risk of ill-health due to her long stint in the abuse team and should have protected her.

The Met claims it is "incredible" for an officer to claim they should not have been asked to attend police stations, adding she did not complain of stress on the abuse teams.

Following a hearing over the evidence to be included at trial, the case will return to court for a full trial at a later date – unless the sides agree a settlement earlier.

It's all over for Rover...

BY STEVE RICHMOND

TRADITIONAL dog names are dying out, with just four Rovers and two Fidos registered by a leading insurer in 2025.

Only one Lassie and three Gnashers came on to the books of Petgevity last year – and it was a similar story with old-fashioned cat names.

Just 11 moggies called Tabby and five Spots were registered last year.

Meanwhile Luna, Poppy and Bella were among the top 10 most popular names for both dogs and cats.

● **TOP 10 DOG NAMES OF 2025:** 1. Poppy 2. Luna 3. Willow 4. Mabel 5. Bella 6. Bonnie 7. Teddy 8. Winnie 9. Milo 10. Daisy

FREEDOM FOR UKRAINE

Picture: SERGEI GAPON / AFP



'We've already gotten used to everything...'

As raids target Kyiv's power supply, citizens remain defiant

LIFE IN KYIV

JOHN MARONE

Despatch from the frontline



SEVERAL weeks now into a brutally severe winter that has seen the Ukrainian capital left cold and dark as a result of relentless Russian air attacks, Kyiv mayor Vitali Klitschko has repeatedly urged his fellow citizens to seek more comfortable conditions elsewhere.

"The situation in Kyiv is extremely difficult and it could get worse," the mayor warned.

But Kyivans are having none of it. "We are here until the end," said Dmytro, a Ukrainian army officer, in a laconic military fashion.

He was standing in Independence Square, enjoying a brilliantly sunny day with his family, the pavement around them covered in thick ice.

And he is not alone in his resolve.

Darya, who works at a small shop beneath the square which serves coffee and freshly made buns, is also carrying on, despite crippling heat and power outages.

As I enter the store, she is wrapped in a light shawl and rubbing her hands to keep warm. She said many people just pass by when they see her and her co-worker standing inside in the dark. But that doesn't deter her. "When the coffee maker



Both shop worker Darya and seaman Leonid are determined to outlast Russian attacks

and oven lose power, we just sell rolls from behind the glass," she said.

Home to around three million people, Kyiv is struggling to restore light, heat and sometimes water to hundreds of thousands of its citizens.

Dangerous

As soon as emergency workers begin to stabilise the grids, the city is again set upon by Russian missiles and drones that drive panic-stricken people from their homes in the dead of night on to pitch-black, icy streets.

At least two such workers, many of whom are toiling round the clock in



many as 600,000 Kyivans had already abandoned ship.

But Leonid, a 61-year-old seaman from Kherson, said he's not scared.

He said: "In Kherson, we had no power, heat or water for three months but most people stayed put."

Now in Kyiv, he said he has no plans to leave.

"I've got no lights in my place but it's bearable," he said, adding: "Anyone who was going to leave has already left by now."

Postings on social media of people partying to car headlights in the parking lots of blacked-out apartment blocks – music blaring, tables with hot food and drinks set up nearby – suggest that he is right.

Refugee

Others, equally steadfast, huddle in "invincibility tents" – hubs where they can drink tea and charge their phones.

Galina an internal refugee from the fallen port city of Mariupol, in the south-east of the country, said that neither she nor anyone she knows is evacuating the capital.

She said: "I will believe it's time to evacuate when Zelensky says so."

"When he says there is going to be a mass attack, there usually is one."

Nor is she worried about what else Russia might throw at the city.

"We Ukrainians have already gotten used to everything," she said.

frozen as well as dangerous conditions, have lost their lives in the line of duty – one falling 20 metres to his death, the other electrocuted.

Last Friday night alone, the Russians launched more than 350 drones and 15 missiles against Ukraine, most of which were directed at Kyiv, leaving 6,000 buildings without heat and 88,000 flats without power.

President Volodymyr Zelensky had already declared a state of emergency on January 14, lengthening the power shut-offs, which now take place without warning.

Klitschko then announced that as

By Hannah Britt

IT was a night to Never Forget. The stars descended on London's Battersea Power Station this week for the premiere of Take That, a three-part Netflix documentary series detailing the boy band's meteoric rise and 35-year history.

We talked exclusively to Gary Barlow, Mark Owen and Howard Donald at the event.

"There is footage in there that people won't have seen. After 35 years of videos we still have stuff up our sleeve," grins Howard.

Gary adds: "That to me was the most surprising thing. I thought I'd seen everything."

"We've had documentaries made, we've been followed round the world."

"But watching this back there were pieces of footage where I thought, 'I don't even remember being there.'"

Gary, now 55, Mark, 54, and Howard, 57, formed as Take That in Manchester in 1990, with former members Jason Orange, 55, and Robbie Williams, 51. And the laugh-out-loud documentary shows the boys growing up together in screaming technicolour.

"The biggest misconception of Take That is that we're still a boy band," jokes Mark of their advancing years. "But we've worked hard to get to where we are. We really care."

Gary adds: "I'm hoping people see the work that has gone into the last 35 years when they watch this. It's definitely not been easy."

Indeed the doc follows the highest highs and lowest lows of being the most famous fivesome on the planet – pop careers peppered with bust-ups, booze and bulimia.

Following the band's break up in 1996, Gary struggled with his weight, grappling with an eating disorder. He previously said of his experience that he was in a hole and "trying to kill off the pop star Gary Barlow".

NETFLIX'S Take That does not shy away from those dark days, making its depiction of the band's comeback in 2006 shine even more. Attending Monday's launch was superfan Amanda Holden, who told us she was "giddy" to be at the event. Formula One legend David Coulthard, James Corden and Masked Singer host Joel Dommett.

But the biggest grin of the night had to be my own. You see, tucked away in my loft is a crumpled Take That T-shirt, threadbare because as a youngster it was the only thing I wanted to wear. I've been a massive fan of the band for as long as I can remember, ever since my older sister Emily lent me her tapes to play.

The lads were a pop culture phenomenon, and to date they have racked up 12 UK No.1 singles and nine No.1 albums. They have sold more than 45 million records worldwide, with multiple Brit Awards and millions of fans spanning the globe.

When I was 19 I was even lucky enough to enjoy a smooch with dishy Jason, tucked away in a dark booth in a bar in Manchester's trendy Northern Quarter.

Now a 36-year-old mum-of-two, I dust off the story every now and again at parties – although I must say this is the first time admitting it in newsprint. But you can imagine how nonchalant I was when invited to last night's glittering event. And Gary, Howard and Mark were every bit as charming, warm and generous with their time as any fan could hope.

My "former flame", who left Take That



Family man Gary back in the day

Never-before-seen footage features in a new Netflix three-part series on Take That. And our reporter, who has her own fan tale to tell, gets the inside story from the band

BACK FOR



Gary, Howard and Mark pose in 90s-themed fan bedroom at the premiere in London

for a quiet life in 2014, and Robbie, whose latest album Britpop was released this month, were not in attendance.

Already at number one on the Netflix chart, Take That features never-before-seen footage and new interviews with all five band members.

Directed by David Soutar, the man behind Ed Sheeran: The Sum Of It All, and Sunderland Till I Die, it takes viewers on a

journey into the band's rise to fame, Robbie's 1995 departure, and their eventual reunion and chart success.

High energy and high drama, it is as frenetic as the band's early days themselves.

It is visually stunning, with footage recorded by the boys on hand-held camcorders interwoven throughout and overlaid with 1990s lettering, the likes of Smash Hits magazine. David tells me: "When we

first started talking to Take That they told us they had an Ikea bag of unseen tapes. It turned up and there were 52 old Handycam tapes from the 90s that they'd filmed themselves.

"That was the starting point for the documentary."

"In the footage they gave us, there's a moment where the band are about to go on stage in Munich, and they're singing Back



Howard, Jason, Robbie, Gary and Mark in 1990s



Hannah with Howard, Gary and Mark at the premiere of the documentary

'There were 52 old Handycam tapes from the 90s that they'd filmed themselves'

together." Gary admits: "Yes, it was, 'Tell them we were joking!'"

But Mark is more reflective: "The break up had to happen in many ways. It helped us when we came back to really appreciate it and be really grateful for each other."

"And our fans have stuck with us for years and years, that even when we break up they're there waiting for us."

BUT 2026 may just be Take That's biggest year yet. The much anticipated The Circus Live summer 2026 tour kicks off at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton on May 29. Plus, there's new music on the way.

"It's going to be a big year for us," Gary teases. "We've been writing for the last 12 months, we've just started to record. There will be new music at the end of the year, maybe a few new songs while we're on tour."

He adds: "We're so proud of the Take That documentary. It feels like a celebration of the past and a glimpse of the future." Could it be magic? I certainly thought it was.

● *Take That is on Netflix now.*

GOOD

For Good, a cappella, Jason on the guitar. You see all the personalities come together, it's pure pop magic.

"They're masters of what they do. These songs have been ever present in our lives for four decades now."

Executive producer Gabe Turner adds: "They've been relevant for 35 years. What other bands do you know that were massive in the 90s, but then came back and instead

of just doing a 'greatest hits', produce better music than they did the first time round, do stadium tours and then stay in the national conversation until present day?"

Take That, whose inevitable breakup in 1996, following Robbie's departure the previous July, hit fans so hard a helpline was set up.

Gary recalls: "We used to all get in a van together, but that day we left in separate

cars. I watched the breakup unfold on the news from home and pretty much for a few years we didn't really see each other."

In the documentary, Howard's anger is tangible.

He says: "We'd done it for six years, and all of a sudden when something stops that you enjoy doing, it was mixed emotions. Anger, sadness, go to the Jobcentre to see what to do next. I tried to get the band back

30-SECOND CHALLENGE

JUST follow the instructions from left to right, starting with the number given to reach an answer at the end of the row. Set your own 30-second challenge. For the very young or arithmetically rusty, you have 30

seconds for the BEGINNER task. For a greater challenge, try BEGINNER and INTERMEDIATE in 30 seconds. True mental gymnasts should try INTERMEDIATE and ADVANCED in 30 seconds together.

Today's answers can be found in the puzzles pullout

YOUR ANSWERS

Beginner	77	-41	5/6 OF THIS	+27	÷3	-11	SQUARE IT	+17	÷3	
Intermediate	244	3/4 OF THIS	+68	REVERSE THE DIGITS	÷8	-5	x7	+174	÷8	
Advanced	124	+186	INCREASE BY 60%	-232	7/11 OF THIS	+47	3/5 OF THIS	-84	40% OF THIS	

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
EUROMILLIONS
4 23 42 43 47 3 9
THUNDERBALL
14 16 22 27 29 13

MONDAY, JANUARY 26
SET FOR LIFE 1 16 19 26 34 7

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
LOTTERY 1 4 8 23 34 57 29
THUNDERBALL 3 15 22 29 39 5

THE HEALTH LOTTERY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
13 23 26 39 40 11

MONDAY, JANUARY 26
12 17 22 35 41 20

The Health Lottery has raised more than £135m for health-related causes since 2011. Details at thehealthlotteryfoundation.org.uk

PHONE POLL RESULTS

We asked in our poll on Monday:
Was the PM right to stop Andy Burnham standing in by-election?
YES: 14%
NO: 86%

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Fill in all the squares so that each row, each column, and each 3x3 square contain all the digits from 1 to 9

			4	7		8		3
	5	9				6		4
8			5		6	9	2	
		7						6
	3		8	9	2		7	
9				6		4		
	7	6			3	1		
1		5		8			4	
	9	8		2	4			5

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For extra clues call: **09013 225 602**
(Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge)
MORE PUZZLES - PULLOUT YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

2	3	5	8	7	9	1	6	4
4	1	9	3	6	5	7	2	8
8	7	6	1	2	4	3	9	5
6	4	7	9	5	8	2	3	1
1	2	3	7	4	6	5	8	9
5	9	8	2	3	1	4	7	6
7	8	1	5	9	3	6	4	2
3	5	4	6	8	2	9	1	7
9	6	2	4	1	7	8	5	3

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Ariana Church holds the incredible space rock

Ariana, 9, is rocked by beach meteorite

BY LAUREN BEAVIS

A YOUNG beachcomber found a 4.5 billion-year-old meteorite that is older than the Earth itself. Ariana Church, nine, made the find with her sister, Leyla, seven, mum Hayley and gran Marion at Penarth Pier, South Wales. It was later cut open and identified as an "extremely rare ferrous iron aerolite". Ariana said: "I wish I could share it with everyone because what I found is so special. I wouldn't sell it for all the money - finding this is the best!" Dad Matt, 40, said his daughter loves collecting things on walks. He added: "On that day, she spotted an unusual stone. It was the

size of a tennis ball - very heavy." The discovery has made Ariana a local celebrity, as she told her story in school assembly. Ariana said: "I can't believe I have found something that could have been a planet that no longer exists."



Ariana with sister Leyla

Martyn Walker attends court in a mobility scooter



Son stole £28k from dementia sufferer mum to pay for Lego

A MAN stole £28,070 from his dementia suffering mother to fund his Lego hobby, a court heard.

Martyn Walker, 55, took the cash from two bank accounts belonging to Christine Hoggett, 83, and spent "a lot" on the toy bricks.

Walker had told staff at his mother's care home in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, that he was "struggling" to pay its fees. However, he later sent an email stating he had spent her money, Norwich crown court heard.

Mean

Samantha Lowther, prosecuting, said the sums of £16,095 and £11,975, taken from two of his mother's accounts between January 2023 and July 2024, were to "tide him over" but it "escalated".

The prosecutor said Walker, of Great Yarmouth, "spent a lot of money on Lego" but also to pay for petrol and cover bills.

He was given an 18-month prison sentence, suspended for 24 months.

BY PETER WALSH

The hearing had been switched to Norwich magistrates court so that Walker, who arrived in a mobility scooter and with a walking stick, could access the building.

Judge David Pugh told him: "I'm sentencing you for a pretty mean offence of theft from your 83-year-old mother who was in a care home and while suffering from dementia."

Judge Pugh said there had been a "breach of a high degree of trust" by Walker, who had "deliberately targeted a vulnerable woman".

He said the offending took place over a "sustained period of time" but gave Walker credit for his guilty pleas.

Representing himself in court, Walker said he had "made a mistake" and "took advantage and must pay".

He said he would miss his mum and his wife – who Walker said had only just found out what happened – if he was jailed. He was also ordered to do 180 hours' unpaid work and up to 15 days of rehabilitation activity.



Helping toads cross the roads

BY EMILY BEAMENT

VOLUNTEERS have helped more than two million toads safely across roads on their annual spring migration during the past half-century.

Froglife said these toad patrollers were vital to help a species in widespread decline – with numbers down 41% in 40 years, according to a study published by the charity last year.

A record number of toad patrols were in operation in 2025, with 280 volunteer groups moving 156,227 of the amphibians across



Female toad carries male on migration roads that cut across migration paths to breeding ponds.

Since the charity started collecting records in 1974, more than two million toads have been shepherded by volunteers who go out on wet nights early in the year,

with torches and buckets, looking for those in need of help.

At some sites there are even road closures for the season.

Ashlea Mawby of Froglife said: "One evening of toad patrolling can save hundreds of toads."

Froglife said habitat loss and pollution are harming the common toad population, with protections weakened by last year's Planning and Infrastructure Act.

It called for the planned Water Reform Bill to tackle freshwater pollution from agriculture and sewage, which harms amphibians.

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YOUR MONEY

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**



How to beat stealth killer of savings

Inflation is eating away at the nation's nest eggs – with almost £7billion of spending power evaporating into thin air last year – but savvy savers shop around for the best accounts on the market

MONEY

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GROWING CONCERN
Inflation rose from 3.2% in November to 3.4% last month

As inflation remains uncomfortably high, savers are being urged to get the best possible rate they can on their deposits, to prevent the value of their hard-earned money from being eroded in real terms. Savers saw the real value of their savings fall by £17.6bn last year, according to analysis from Fidelity International, and they're on course for similar losses this year. Inflation climbed from 3.2% in November to 3.4% in December, surprising analysts and further eroding the spending power of household cash. At that rate, £10,000 sees its

real terms spending power fall by £340 in just one year. Marianna Hunt, personal finance specialist at Fidelity, said inflation is a silent threat to savers: "Even relatively modest inflation can continue to erode savings if returns on cash fail to keep pace." Easy-access savings accounts returned an average of 1.94% in 2025, well below current inflation, although fixed-rate savings fared

"Inflation can continue to erode savings if returns on cash fail to keep pace"

better at 3.56%. This becomes even more pressing as banks and building societies cut rates, anticipating that inflation will slide and persuade the Bank of England to cut base rates from today's 3.75%. But that's not a certainty yet with inflation stubbornly high. Government-backed National Savings & Investments (NS&I) has just cut rates on its

easy-access Direct Saver and Income Bonds from 3.3% to 3.05%. Sarah Coles, head of personal finance at Hargreaves Lansdown, said savers can do much better elsewhere, and should consider a fixed savings rate: "If you fix now, you could be grateful if inflation and easy access rates continue to fall." Don't let your cash languish while inflation gnaws away its value. Shop around for the best deals, consider fixed rates where possible, and keep an eye on the market. Long-term savings should go in the stock market, which is likely to deliver a superior return in the longer run, but with more volatility along the way.

Chancellor's IHT plan adds to heartache



CRUEL TAX
Reeves finds a way to make death worse

Edited by **HARVEY JONES**

Chancellor Rachel Reeves's plan to slap inheritance tax on unused pensions risks turning death into a bureaucratic and financial nightmare for ordinary families. That's the verdict of the House of Lords, which has warned that the policy is unworkable, unfair and cruelly timed.

In her maiden Budget in October 2024, Reeves announced that unused defined contribution pensions would be potentially liable for inheritance tax from April 2027. Until now, these pensions sat outside the system, allowing people to pass on what was left after a lifetime of saving.

Reeves's decision may raise revenue, but it ignores the practical consequences for grieving families. Sorting out an estate is already a long, stressful slog. Executors must arrange funerals, value assets, apply for probate, deal with HMRC and distribute what remains. It often takes years. Many are unpaid family members with no financial background, yet carry personal legal risk if they make mistakes.

Reeves's changes pile even more responsibility onto them. Executors would be expected to trace every pension the deceased ever had, establish who inherits, calculate any inheritance tax due and pay it within six months of death. That deadline comes before probate is granted and before pension funds are released.

Today, the House of Lords Economic Affairs Finance Bill Sub-Committee condemned this approach. Chair Lord Liddle said it is particularly concerned about the impact on executors administering an estate at a time of grief: "Bringing pensions into inheritance tax risk causing significant delays and costs. Moreover, many of those affected may be entirely unaware of how these changes will impact them."

He added it was "not realistic" to expect personal representatives to meet the six-month deadline and warned many would face late payment interest through no fault of their own, as that timescale may be "impossible to

meet". That interest is charged at 8%, leaving families exposed if pension providers or probate offices move slowly. Executors may even become liable for tax on assets they cannot access, creating cashflow crises at the worst possible moment.

Former pensions minister Ros Altmann has warned for months that it will cause "chaos, misery, costs and risks for executors". "To find all the pensions, identify who will inherit, then calculate and pay the IHT due within six months is unworkable."

The problems run deep. Pension administrators are not notified of deaths instantly. Identity checks, beneficiary decisions and valuations take time. The long-promised Pensions Dashboard will not be ready to trace lost pensions by 2027, nor include pensions already in payment. Even estates that ultimately owe no IHT may be caught up in the process. Executors will have to prove there are no pensions or no tax due, adding delay and cost.

The policy also risks undermining pensions themselves. Faced with the threat of a 40% tax on death, many savers will withdraw early, leaving less money invested for the long term and more people reliant on the state.

The House of Lords has fired a clear warning shot. Reeves should listen, rethink and reverse this before it does lasting damage to retirement security.



WARNING
Chancellor Rachel Reeves

SAVERS are being urged to make full use of this year's £20,000 tax-free ISA allowance ahead of changes that come into force in April 2027.

ISA rules remain unchanged both in the current 2025/26 tax year, which ends on April 5, and the 2026/27 tax year that follows.

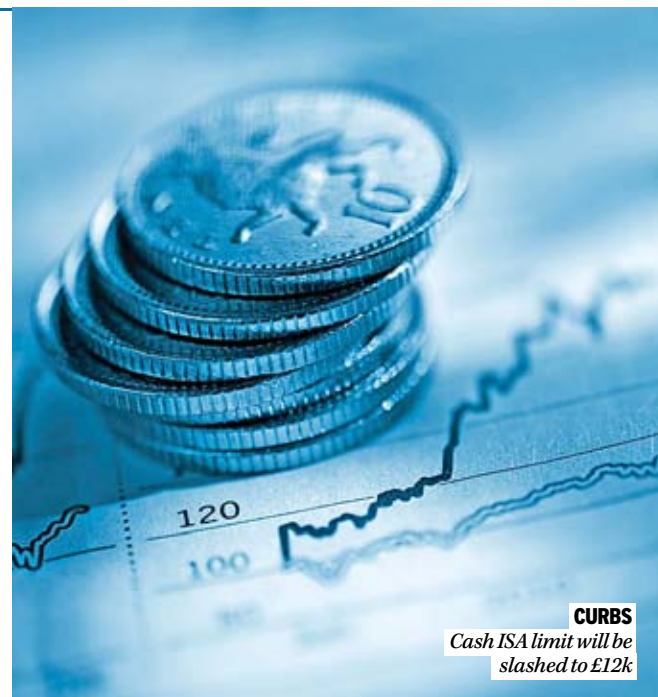
This means that savers and investors can invest up to £20,000 across either a Cash ISA or Stocks and Shares ISA, and in any combination they choose.

But from April 2027 Chancellor Rachel Reeves will cut the Cash ISA limit to just £12,000 for the under-65s, although older savers will still get the full £20,000. Reeves is also considering rules to prevent younger savers holding cash inside a Stocks & Shares ISA.

She may do this by curbing popular money market funds, which offer low-risk returns from short-term deposits and bonds.

Every year, ISAs come with a hard deadline, said Alice Haine, personal finance analyst at Bestinvest by Evelyn Partners. "Fail to use your allowance by midnight on April 5 and it's gone for good. With Reeves extending the freeze on income tax thresholds to 2031, the urgency is now even greater."

Reeves is attacking savers



CURBS
Cash ISA limit will be slashed to £12k

Watch out for Reeves' assault on savings tax

and investors in other ways too. From April 6, she imposes a 2% income tax surcharge on dividends from shares held outside of an ISA. This will increase basic rate tax on dividends to 10.75% and the higher rate to 35.75%. Additional rate remains at 39.35%. There's no tax on shares held in an ISA.

The Chancellor will

continue the assault by slapping a 2% income tax surcharge on savings interest from April 6, 2027.

Haine said: "ISAs will continue to allow savers to grow and generate income without a punitive income tax or capital gains tax bill. So act now to protect your savings from an increasingly hungry tax system."

Make use of equity release products to help you in later life

DEMAND for equity-release schemes is rising steadily as older homeowners unlock capital in property to boost retirement spending power.

Equity release allows older homeowners to borrow against their home's value without selling up. Most deals are lifetime mortgages, where interest rolls up and the debt is repaid from the sale of the property when you and your partner die or move into long-term care.

Total lending grew 11% last year to more than £2.5billion, with the average customer releasing £123,174 in the final quarter of the year, new figures from the Equity Release Council show.

ERC chief executive Jim Boyd said this growth underlines the increasingly important role housing wealth now plays in supporting pensioner homeowners. "Modern equity-release products are more flexible and secure than ever, helping people enjoy financial freedom and a better quality of life".

Equity release is typically used to clear mortgages, fund home improvements, help family members or enjoy retirement.

Yet many struggle to understand how it works, with new research from Canada Life showing that four in five were unaware of a key feature called the No Negative Equity Guarantee, which pledges borrowers can never owe more than the value of their home.

Canada Life managing director Pete Maddern said: "As people live longer and many



pension savings fall short, unlocking any capital tied up in property is likely to become an increasingly important part of people's retirement planning."

Equity release is not right for everybody. The payout may reduce inheritances, affect entitlement to benefits and can prove to be expensive as capital and interest rolls up over time.

Homeowners should talk to their family, make sure they're claiming all their state benefits, consider options such as downsizing and take advice from a specialist equity-release adviser and trusted solicitor.



ENTERPRISE

Edited by **MAISHA FROST**

Green Nikwax has perfect chemistry



Whether you are scaling snowy peaks, hitting the gym or setting sail across the seas, nature-friendly Nikwax has your back. Harnessing the power of prepping with products that protect gear and make it last longer, the British manufacturer has been trailblazing for almost 50 years.

Its aftercare formulations exclude harmful forever chemicals (known as PFAs) still used in the outdoor wear industry along with aerosols and animal testing.

But as environmental concerns grow and more bans come into force, Nikwax goes from strength to strength. Turnover now stands at £20million-plus with over 10% annual growth.

Its 38 products are sold in 50 countries and while its international reach includes offices in the US, Poland and the Netherlands, its centre employing more than 70 remains in Wadhurst, East Sussex, where on a 10-acre site a production unit is surrounded by land humming with biodiversity.

It was here where founder and walker Nick Brown embarked on innovation adventures which were driven by environmental fears.

"Now we're seeing more people turn to aftercare as a smart, responsible way to extend the life of what they already own rather than replacing it. This helps mitigate the vast amount of pollution caused by textile waste. Over time the world has caught up with us," explains chief executive Brian Davidson.

Now owned through a trust by its employees enhancing their confidence

and motivation, changing social trends are expanding Nikwax's client base. What was once a core of climbers and hikers – dog walkers, gym users, commuters and families have extended the group while its multichannel sales operation spans specialist outdoor retailers, indie shops, national chains, ecommerce partners and online retailers.

"We've diversified our product lines to support gear care for a broader range of activities," says Davidson, citing cleaning and deodorising products for sportswear, footwear and wetsuits.

Effective cleaner Tech Wash and waterproofing solution TX.Direct (together £13.99) are bestsellers with Nikwax Waterproofing Wax for Leather still going strong too.

No stranger to overcoming challenges, one stands out. With PFA bans on consumer goods looming in the US, "We saw the opportunity to apply our chemistry on an industrial level at fabric mills," says marketing head Zoe Hewitt. "But our products were designed to be easy to use at home, not applied in an industrial padder (large tank) and then the excess squeezed by a giant mangle. We had to take a ground-up approach to developing the formulation."

In 2024 Nikwax Direct Dry, a high performance industrial water repellent treatment was launched with US outdoor clothing brand Outdoor Research, winning awards for sustainability. In February a new collaboration will be unveiled with UK-based sailing clothing company Gill Marine.

"Our commitment to clean chemistry never wavers," declares Hewitt.

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Source: Moneyfactscompare.co.uk

Rates correct at 8:00am: 27th January 2026

EASY ACCESS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
cahoot	Sunny Day Saver (5)	None	£1	5.00%	Yearly
Chase	Chase Saver Boosted	None	£1	4.50% A	Monthly
Mansfield BS	Triple Access Saver (1st)	None	£1	4.25% A	Yearly
Sidekick	Multi Shield	None	£10,000	4.23% A	Monthly

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
AlRayan Bank B	Fixed Deposit	12 Mth Bnd	£5,000	4.32% F	On maturity
Rova	Savings Vault	1 Yr Bnd	£500	4.25% F	On maturity
Cynergy Bank	Fixed Bond	1 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.24% F	On maturity
OakNorth Bank	Fixed Savings	12 Mth Bnd	£1	4.23% F	On maturity

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Hampshire Trust Bank	Online Fixed Saver (46)	5 Yr Bnd	£1	4.31% F	Yearly
Cynergy Bank	Fixed Bond	5 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.30% F	Yearly
Cynergy Bank	Fixed Bond	4 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.25% F	Yearly
Chetwood Bank	Fixed Savings	5 Yr Bnd	£1,000	4.25% F	Yearly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Oxbury Bank	Base Rate Tracker (2)	180 Day	£1,000	4.38%	Monthly
Shawbrook Bank	Notice Account - 61	120 Day	£1,000	4.35%	Yearly
Oxbury Bank	Notice Tracker 2	120 Day	£10,000	4.34%	Monthly
GB Bank	Notice Account 3	120 Day	£1,000	4.33%	Yearly

VARIABLE ISAs

Provider	Account	Term or Notice	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Moneybox	Moneybox Cash ISA	None	£500	4.35% A	Monthly
Plum	Plum Cash ISA	None	£1	4.32% A	Monthly
Atom Bank	Easy Access Cash ISA	None	£1	4.25%	Monthly
Cynergy Bank	Online Access ISA 61	None	£1	4.10%	Yearly

BALANCE TRANSFER CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	Fee	APR
TSB	Plat Balance Transfer MC	38 mths	3.49%	24.9%
Barclaycard	Plat Balance Transfer V	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Tesco Bank	Clubcard CC BT MC	36 mths	3.45%	24.9%
Virgin Money	Balance Transfer CC MC	35 mths	2.95%	24.9%

PURCHASE CREDIT CARDS

Provider	Product Name	0% Period	APR
Lloyds Bank	Plat 0% Purch & BT CC Visa	25 mths	24.9%
M&S Bank	Purchase Plus Offer MC	25 mths	24.9%
TSB	Platinum Purchase Card MC	25 mths	24.9%
Barclaycard	Plat 21 Mth BT 24 Mth Pur V	24 mths	24.9%

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Nationwide BS	4.64%	for 2 years	95%	Nil	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	4.68%	to 31.5.28	95%	Nil	To 31.5.28
NatWest	4.65%	to 30.4.31	95%	Nil	To 30.4.31
HSBC	4.72%	to 31.5.31	95%	Nil	To 31.5.31

SHORT TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Santander	3.55%	to 2.5.28	60%	£999	To 2.5.28
HSBC	4.19%	to 31.5.28	90%	Nil	To 31.5.28
Santander	3.79%	to 2.5.29	75%	£999	To 2.5.29
TSB	4.39%	to 31.5.29	90%	Nil	To 31.5.29

LONG TERM FIXED RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.75%	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	3.84%	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
NatWest	4.10%	to 30.4.31	90%	£995	To 30.4.31
Nationwide BS	4.64%	for 10 years	80%	£999	1st 10 yrs

DISCOUNTED VARIABLE RATES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
Furness BS	4.14%	for 2 years	80%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Furness BS	4.54%	for 2 years	90%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Newbury BS	3.99%	for 3 years	75%	£850	1st 3 yrs
Earl Shilton BS	5.79%	for 5 years	90%	£724	1st 5 yrs

REMORTGAGES

Provider	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redemption Charge
first direct	3.70% F	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	4.14% F	for 2 years	80%	£490	1st 2 yrs
HSBC	3.84% F	to 31.5.31	75%	£999	To 31.5.31
Nationwide BS	4.05% F	for 5 years	85%	£999	1st 5 yrs

PERSONAL LOANS - BASED ON £10,000 OVER 5 YEARS

Provider	APR	Monthly Repayment	Total Amount Repayable
TSB	5.6%	£190.83	£11,449.80
Novuna Personal Finance	5.7%	£191.27	£11,476.20
M&S Bank	5.7%	£191.27	£11,476.20
Santander	5.9%	£192.15	£11,529.00

CURRENT ACCOUNTS WITH CREDIT INTEREST OR REWARD

Provider	Account	AER or Amount Paid
TSB	Spend & Save Plus	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	FlexDirect	5.00% A
LHV Bank	LHV Current Account	3.75%
Kroo Bank Ltd	Current Account	2.65%



Moneyfacts
compare.co.uk

A = Introductory rate for a limited period. **B** = Provider operates under Islamic finance principles, rate shown is expected profit rate.

D = Discounted variable rate. **F** = Fixed rate. **V** = Variable rate.

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EXPRESS UK PROPERTY

Edited by **DEBORAH STONE**

ON THE
HOME
FRONT

Plenty of Pride – no Prejudice

After a year of celebrating the 250th anniversary of writer Jane Austen's birth, fans of the Hampshire-born novelist are looking forward to the much-anticipated Netflix series of *Pride And Prejudice* – her most popular book.

It's the story of Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy – a role Colin Firth made his own with his famous wet shirt in the lake scene – and while academics may say it's all about love and marriage, it's a truth universally acknowledged that it's really about property.

A lot has changed in Hampshire's property market since *Pride And Prejudice* was published in 1813, when Austen's characters were mostly concerned about mansions and stately homes.

But what hasn't changed is the attraction of living in Hampshire. It's the largest county in South East England with beautiful countryside including the New Forest and South Downs, as

well as an English Channel coastline facing the Isle of Wight.

It also has idyllic villages and interesting cities such as Southampton, Portsmouth and Winchester – King Alfred's capital of England.

No wonder, then, that the average house price in Hampshire is significantly more than the UK average – £401,000 compared to £368,031 in January.

However, there's good news for those looking for a new home in East Hampshire, thanks to the regeneration of the former garrison town Whitehill & Bordon.

At the heart of this regeneration is Dukes Quarter, where Sage Homes is offering Shared Ownership houses and apartments.

Prices start from £49,375 for a 25% share of a one-bedroom flat, with deposits starting from £2,469, while three bedroom terraced houses are available from £183,725 for a 50% share, with deposits from £9,187 ([sagehomes.co.uk](https://www.sagehomes.co.uk)).

Buying through shared ownership means a

much lower deposit is needed, compared to the full market price, and buyers only need a mortgage for the share of the property they are buying. However, they have to pay a monthly rent for the portion they don't own.

Sage Homes is England's largest provider of new-build affordable housing and its Dukes Quarter homes feature solar panels, triple-glazed windows, kitchens with energy-efficient integrated appliances and EV charging points.

Interiors have oak-effect flooring and carpets in bedrooms, with a private parking space for every house and allocated parking for all apartments. The development is an

eight-minute walk from rejuvenated Bordon town centre. A new Sainsbury's is due to open this summer and is expected to be the cornerstone of the emerging town centre, according to East Hampshire Council.

Other upgrades in Bordon include The Shed, which offers live entertainment, artisan food and craft shops, seven minutes' walk away.

Six minutes' drive from the A3 to London and Portsmouth, and with trains to central London from nearby Liphook station, the properties at Dukes Quarter are something Jane Austen could never have imagined when she was writing her novels in Hampshire.



WRITE STUFF
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at Dukes Quarter



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SUPPORTIVE RECLINING OFFICE CHAIR WITH FOOTSTOOL

Whether you're taking a break from work or giving yourself a well-earned moment of rest, having a comfortable, supportive chair makes all the difference. The Ergonomic Executive Reclining Chair combines smart design with a padded, sponge-filled seat, delivering comfort that supports your body exactly where it needs it most.

Equipped with a 360-degree swivel and a 180-degree recline, you can adjust your seating angle effortlessly for reading, working, or stretching back during a break. A separate footstool allows

you to fully elevate your legs, enhancing relaxation and posture.

The chair is upholstered in soft PU leather and set on a sturdy metal frame with a walnut-coloured wooden runner, offering both style and stability. Its padded armrests and ergonomic contours ensure support throughout the day. Ideal for home or office, this chair creates a dedicated space for rest, reading, or simply taking a pause between tasks, combining modern design with practical comfort for hours of use.

 yimbly.com/Offer137

Quote **Offer137**

Offer ends 31st January

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TODAY'S TV ONES TO WATCH

by **MIKE WARD** TV critic

Pick of the day
THE REPAIR SHOP
BBC1, 8PM



DIGGING FOR BRITAIN, BBC2, 8PM

DOES the name Harold Godwinson mean anything to you? It should, because this is the Harold who died at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, having taken a somewhat unfortunate arrow to the eye.

Also referred to as Harold II (probably better, as it makes him sound more like a king and less like a chap who played wing-half for Bolton Wanderers in the Fifties), Godwinson was England's last Anglo-Saxon king. On a site near Hull, evidence is emerging of his lost estate. Meanwhile, in the Cheviots, local archaeologist Clive introduces host Alice Roberts to his old pal Urn.



BRIAN COX'S ADVENTURES IN SPACE AND TIME, BBC4, 8PM

PROGRAMMES such as this can pose so many questions. How far can the human race travel, for example, on its quest to uncover the mysteries of the cosmos? And how soon will it be before space travel itself becomes as routine as catching a bus?

In this four-part re-run from 2021, Brian (pictured above) revisits some of his earlier shows, many of which addressed such issues. But he adds: "Our knowledge has really moved on since we made these films."

No doubt it's moved on further still since he made this compilation.



BRUSH UP SKILLS
Dom, left, and the team
with the three sisters

DOM GETS HAIRDRYER TREATMENT

TONIGHT on The Repair Shop they're fixing a hairdryer. Makes a nice change, eh? No great drama, just Dom and the team mending an everyday household item, no more likely to reduce you to tears than watching a man fix your toaster or declog your steam iron so it stops spitting globules of gunk at your nice clean clothes. The show needs more jobs like this, don't you think?

Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking those repairs that come with emotional backstories. It's just that, well, we do get rather a lot of them, don't we? And between you and me, I sometimes find this a bit... what's the word... draining. The Repair Shop guys must surely feel the same. It's just that

experience will have taught them not to say so. If they see someone arriving with, for example, a mangled old bicycle, instinct will immediately tell them there'll be a heart-rending tale attached, and so to choose their words with care. They'll know better than to yell: "Blimey, what a mess! Did your great-grandad ride that into a lamp post, mate?" because the odds are he probably did.

Having said that, this hairdryer does turn out to have a story attached, because it's not the kind of device you might imagine. Its owners, three sisters from Shropshire, haven't just popped in with a faulty Remington D3010 (RRP: £17.99), or a Dyson Supersonic (RRP: a squillion pounds), to ask the guys to give it a once-over. No, the hairdryer they'd like

mended is one of those big old-fashioned contraptions that a lady would sit down at.

Their mum used it in her home-based salon in the Seventies and Eighties. It's the kind with a helmet-type thing that gets lowered over a lady's head, so she looks as if she's been abducted by aliens and is having a fiendish experiment conducted on her brain, albeit while flicking through Woman's Realm.

And what exactly is wrong with this hairdryer? Well, its padded backrest is missing, for a start. That would cause you some discomfort if you sat beneath it.

Maybe not as much, mind you, as another of its faults, pointed out by owner Pat: "I don't think the electrics would pass health and safety..." she suggests.



BEST PROPERTY

KIRSTIE AND PHIL'S LOVE IT OR LIST IT C4, 8PM

Sam, Andy and young son Cohen are divided over their bungalow. The couple moved in after wheelchair user Andy had a motorcycle accident. Will they stay or go?



BEST DRAMA

GRANTCHESTER ITV1, 9PM

Leonard's drinking has been threatening to spiral out of control, and now it does, as he's locked up in a cell overnight to dry out. But it isn't the wake-up call he needs.



BEST COMEDY

CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET? BBC1, 9PM

A sitcom focusing on an insurance fraud doesn't sound too promising, but this has been a delight thanks to Dawn French, Mandip Gill, Mark Heap and Craig Roberts.



BEST THRILLER

PATIENCE C4, 9PM

Patience and Frankie enter into the cloistered world of a monastery, where a monk has been murdered. Patience wonders if she's made the right decision about Tom.

TODAY'S PREVIEWS ARE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

FILM RATINGS
★★★★★
BRILLIANT
★★★★
VERY GOOD
★★★
GOOD
★★
AVERAGE
★
BAD
(R) REPEAT

ALL PROGRAMMES ARE LISTED IN GREENWICH MEAN TIME (GMT).

BBC One

6.00am Breakfast News headlines.
9.30 Morning Live Magazine.
10.45 Rip Off Britain (R)
11.15 Homes Under the Hammer Property renovations in Nottinghamshire, south London and Lancashire.
12.15pm Bargain Hunt (R)
1.00 BBC News at One; Weather
2.00 Lost and Found in the Lakes The scuba team search for a prized possession.
2.30 Marcus Wareing Simply Provence Marcus searches for a high cheese to impress locals at a petanque match. (R)
3.00 Escape to the Country Jules Hudson helps find a location in north Wales. (R)
3.45 The Travelling Auctioneers Izzie Balmer and Robin Johnson help a couple declutter their home. (R)
4.30 Antiques Road Trip Ishy Khan and Hettie Jago search for treasures in Shropshire.
5.15 Pointless Quiz show. (R)
6.00 BBC News at Six; Weather
6.30 Regional News; Weather
6.55 Party Political Broadcast

BBC Two

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (R)
7.15 Escape to the Country From Cambridgeshire. (R)
8.00 Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Australia Rick explores the plains of Moree and Bourke. (R)
9.00 BBC News Headlines.
11.15 Politics Live Updates.
1.00pm Impossible Quiz show. (R)
1.45 Brainbox Challenge (R)
2.15 The Boss Quiz show. (R)
3.00 The Vintage French Farmhouse (R)
3.45 Who Do You Think You Are? USA Actress Jennifer Grey traces her ancestry. (R)
4.15 Earth's Greatest Spectacles Botswana's Okavango Delta. (R)
5.15 Flog It! Valuing antiques at Blackpool Tower Circus. (R)
6.00 Richard Osman's House of Games With Tasha Ghouri, Jon Kay, Alexandra Mardell and Griff Rhys Jones.
6.30 Clive Myrie's African Adventure Clive arrives in one of South Africa's three capitals – Cape Town.

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain A lively mix of news, current affairs and lifestyle features.
9.30 Lorraine Entertainment and the latest fashion news.
10.00 This Morning Topical daily magazine, featuring a mix of celebrity chat, showbusiness news, advice and discussion. Including Local Weather.
12.30pm Loose Women Celebrity interviews and topical debate.
1.30 ITV News; Weather
1.55 Regional News; Weather
2.00 Dickinson's Real Deal David Dickinson is in Burton upon Trent with his team of dealers.
3.00 Time Is Money Quiz, hosted by Sara Davies.
3.59 Regional Weather
4.00 Deal or No Deal Hunika tries to open the 22 red boxes in the right order.
5.00 The Chase Kathryn, Paddy, Kamal and Savannah take on a Chaser in the quiz show.
6.00 Regional News; Weather
6.25 Party Political Broadcast By the Liberal Democrats.
6.30 ITV Evening News

Channel 4

6.25am Cheers Triple bill. (R)
7.50 Everybody Loves Raymond
9.10 Frasier Four episodes. (R)
11.10 American Pickers (R)
12.05pm Channel 4 News
12.10 Car S.O.S (R)
1.10 Find It, Fix It, Flog It Henry Cole and Simon O'Brien unearth hidden treasures in a Suffolk shed. (R)
2.10 Countdown Tom Read Wilson is in Dictionary Corner.
3.00 A Place in the Sun Jasmine Harman helps a couple to find a retirement home in the countryside of Valencia. (R)
4.00 A New Life in the Sun Bad weather threatens the launch of a Bristol family's biker tours business.
5.00 Chateau DIY: Win the Dream A challenge pushes the contestants to the limit.
6.00 A Place in the Sun Ben Hillman helps Ann and Chris, who are looking for a Spanish holiday home near Valencia, showing the couple what their maximum £280,000 budget could buy them.

5

6.00am Milkshake! Children's TV.
9.15 Jeremy Vine Discussion.
11.30 Storm & Alexis Discussion.
12.45pm 5 News at Lunchtime
12.50 Matt Allwright Debate.
2.00 Vanessa Discussion show.
3.00 The Madame Blanc Mysteries Thirty years after an eventful card game with a gangster, Patrick confides in Jean and Dom that he was responsible for identifying the villainous Sonny in a police line-up. Last in series. (R)
4.00 Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun On the Costa del Sol, show bar owners Andrea and Paul take on a new challenge in an attempt to draw in a younger crowd, while chip-shop owner Caroline settles into her apartment.
5.00 5 News at 5 Headlines.
6.00 The Motorway In the north-west, Gavin and Martin are searching for a pedestrian on the M6 in poor visibility due to heavy rain, when they are re-assigned to a six-car pile-up. (R); 5 News Update



9pm, CAN YOU KEEP...: Mandip Gill and Dawn French



8pm, DIGGING FOR BRITAIN: Alice Roberts



7.30pm, DEAL OR NO DEAL: BANKER'S...: Stephen Mulhern



9pm, PATIENCE: Ella Maisy Purvis



9pm, SURGEONS: A MATTER OF LIFE OR DEATH: Shaz Ahmed

7

7.00 The One Show Alex Jones and Vernon Kay present the magazine show, with celebrity guests and stories of interest.
7.30 EastEnders Vicki faces Joel in court as his trial begins, Ian swears revenge on Elaine, and Bea looks for a job.

8

8.00 The Repair Shop The popular series returns after an 11-week break. Three sisters from Shropshire being in a treasured relic from their family's salon – a retro sit-down hairdryer that once belonged to their mum.

9

9.00 Can You Keep a Secret? Neha fights fire with fire as she helps Debbie hunt down the blackmailer. Black comedy, starring Dawn French.
9.30 Black Ops Dom and Kay try to ambush Steve by breaking into his flat, but plans go awry.

10

10.00 BBC News at Ten
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.40 MOTD: UEFA Champions League Mark Chapman presents action from the final round of league phase matches, including Paris Saint-Germain v Newcastle United at Parc des Princes and Napoli v Chelsea at Stadio Diego Armando Maradona. Newcastle faced the toughest of tests away to the reigning champions, while Chelsea also had a potentially difficult assignment against Napoli.

11

12.00m't Michael McIntyre's Big Show. An evening of entertainment, featuring musical and comedy performances featuring KSI, Angela Scanlon and Shane Richie, with music by Myles Smith. (R) **1.00** Would I Lie to You? (R) **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35-6.00am** BBC News

12
MIDNIGHT

7.00 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip Gethin Jones and Dr Xander Van Tulleken cruise across the Welsh border in a couple of classic American motors, guided on their hunt for antiques by experts Irita Marriott and Serhat Ahmet. (R)

8.00 Digging for Britain Featuring the last Anglo-Saxon king of England Harold Godwinson's lost estate, a completely intact 4,000-year-old cremation vessel and an unprecedented Roman whetstone factory.

9.00 Cold Case Investigators: Solving Britain's Sex Crimes Part one. Detectives use DNA to reinvestigate the kidnap and serious sexual assault of two schoolgirls in 2002 and the rape of a teenage boy in 1983. (R)

10.00 One Foot in the Grave Victor and Margaret are trapped in the shed by a swarm of bees – and not unexpectedly where the mishap-prone Meldreys are concerned, that is just the start of their troubles. (R)
10.30 Newsnight; Weather;

11.00 Unspun World with John Simpson The week's stories.
11.30 FILM Relic (2020, 15) Three generations of the same family are haunted by a presence which is taking over a woman's mind. Mystery horror, with Emily Mortimer. ★★★★★

12.55am Sign Zone: Mystery Road: Origin. Jay's brother is blamed for a shooting, then another child vanishes, so the detective turns to extreme methods. (R) **1.45** Sign Zone: Call the Midwife. Period drama. (R) **2.45** Sign Zone: Amanda & Alan's Greek Job (R) **3.15-6.15am** This Is BBC Two

7.30 Deal or No Deal: Banker's Best Battles Stephen Mulhern hosts a look back at some of the most iconic Deal or No Deal episodes. Matthew and Alex are given their opportunity to open the iconic red boxes this time.

8.00 Emmerdale Kim remains defiant, Joe is overwhelmed, and the police are called.
8.30 Coronation Street The residents gather to pay their last respects to Billy, Bernie takes her grief out on Dev, and Ryan faces masked robbers.

9.00 Grantchester Leonard's drinking lands him in a prison cell overnight. When he wakes up, the consequences only escalate from there. Drama, starring Robson Green, Al Weaver, Rishi Nair and Tessa Peake-Jones.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather
10.30 Regional News; Weather
10.45 Peston Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures. Including updates from social media taking in perspectives from viewers, experts and key players.
11.40 Gallagher PREM Unleashed Action from the 10th round of fixtures, including Harlequins v Leicester Tigers and Gloucester v Bath. (R)

12.00m't Shop on TV **3.00** Wellness: What Really Works? Tonight. Charlotte Hawkins investigates some of the latest wellness trends. (R) **3.25** Ainsley's Taste of the Bahamas. Ainsley Harriott explores the food of the island nation. (R) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05-6.00am** Deal or No Deal (R)

7.00 Channel 4 News A round-up of all the latest headlines, in-depth interviews and analysis of political developments and current affairs. Plus, the day's leading sports stories and up-to-the-minute weather reports.

8.00 Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It Wheelchair user Andy wants rid of his dated Grantham bungalow, while partner Sam thinks they should invest in making it work for them. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer take sides.

9.00 Patience Frankie and Patience enter the cloistered world of a monastery after a monk is found dead in the chapel, seemingly killed while kneeling in prayer. Meanwhile, Patience is cajoled into making a public speech about her work.

10.00 Space Shuttle Challenger: Days That Shocked the World Documentary exploring the destruction of the space shuttle, with testimony of the crew's families and colleagues, and engineers working behind the scenes. (R)

11.00 Mission to Space with Francis Bourgeois The social media star and trainspotter trains as an astronaut with one of the leading companies in commercial space flight, and under the guidance of Tim Peake. (R)

12.05am Celebrity SAS: Who Dares Wins (R) **1.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (R) **1.50 FILM** The Empty Man (2020, 18) Mystery horror. ★★★★★ **4.10** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (R) **4.35** Sunday Brunch (R) **4.50** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It (R) **5.45-6.25am** Countdown (R)

7.00 GPs: Behind Closed Doors At Bradford's Ridge Medical Practice, baby Imaan is suffering severe nappy rash, Aris has been leaking yellow fluid from a cyst in his armpit, and Gemma has a worrying tongue ulcer. (R); 5 News

8.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts Paramedics bring in 67-year-old Dianne, who is suspected of having sepsis, and 81-year-old Pat arrives with multiple injuries following her second fall in a week.

9.00 Surgeons: A Matter of Life or Death A woman with a rare tumour on the inside of her tear duct must have her eye removed, and another patient is having his cancerous bladder replaced by one made from his small bowel.

10.30 Ambulance: Code Red In Buckinghamshire Dr Manjit Riyat and critical care paramedic Barry Walsh race to the aid of 10-year-old Riley who has a broken femur after coming off his motocross bike. (R)

11.30 Skin A&E Dr Adil Sheraz treats a giant ear keloid and motorbike-loving Martin needs help from Dr Emma McMullen. Twenty-eight-year-old breakdancer Arran wants Dr Natalia Spierings to remove some head cysts. (R)

12.30am Car Pound Cops (R) **1.00** PlayOJO Live Casino Show **3.00** World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys (R) **3.50** Susan Calman's Grand Week by the Sea (R) **4.35** The Highland Vet (R) **5.25** Entertainment News on 5 **5.35** The Adventures of Paddington (R) **5.45-6.00am** Milo (R)

ITV2 FREEVIEW 6

6.00am CITV **7.30** Celebrity Dinner Date **8.30** Olivia Marries Her Match **9.25** The Only Way Is Essex **10.25** The Real Housewives of Miami **11.20** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills **12.15pm** Dinner Date **1.15** Celebrity Dinner Date **2.15** The Only Way Is Essex **3.15** The Real Housewives of Orange County **4.10** The Real Housewives of Miami **5.00** The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills

6.00 **Celebrity Catchphrase** With Jenny Ryan, David Baddiel and Hollie Arnold.

7.00 **Wheel of Fortune** Gameshow.

8.00 **The Real Housewives of Orange County** Shannon and Tamra hash out their versions of events.

9.00 **Love Island: All Stars** Famous former Islanders get another shot at finding love.

10.05 **Grosse Pointe Garden Society**

11.05 **Family Guy** Double bill of fun.

12.05am American Dad! **1.05** Bob's Burgers **1.35** Olivia Attwood's Bad Boyfriends **2.30-3.00am** Unwind

U&Dave FREEVIEW 19

6.00am Teleshopping **7.35** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.30** Guy Martin: The World's Fastest Van? **11.00** Rick Stein's Road to Mexico **12.00noon** Bangers & Cash **2.00** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge **3.00** Top Gear **5.00** Hairy Bikers' Best of British

6.00 **Rick Stein's Road to Mexico** The chef heads from San Diego to Tijuana.

7.00 **Would I Lie to You? At Christmas** With Ray Winstone, Josh Widdicombe, Rachel Riley and Ricky Tomlinson.

7.40 **Richard Osman's House of Games**

9.00 **QI XL** Extended edition. With Shappi Khorsandi, Ross Noble and Johnny Vegas.

10.00 **Have I Got a Bit More News for You** Alan Johnson hosts the show.

11.00 **Taskmaster** Russell Howard presents a nightmarish fairy tale.

12.00m't Would I Lie to You? **12.40** Mock the Week **1.20** Not Going Out **2.00** Not Going Out **3.15** Would I Lie to You? At Christmas **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

E4 FREEVIEW 13

6.00am Hollyoaks **6.55** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **7.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **9.00** The Goldbergs **10.00** Modern Family **11.00** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **1.00pm** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Simpsons **3.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** Modern Family **5.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

6.00 **The Simpsons** Double bill.

7.00 **Hollyoaks** Mercedes struggles to adjust to a change in her life.

7.30 **The Simpsons** Bart decides to steal a kiss from a girl at school.

8.00 **First Dates** The Traitors finalist, Aaron enters the restaurant looking for love.

9.00 **Gogglebox** The critics share their opinions on what they have been watching.

11.05 **Open House: The Great Sex Experiment** A married couple consider the benefits of an open relationship.

12.10am Naked Attraction **1.15** First Dates **2.20** Gogglebox **4.10** The Goldbergs **5.00-6.00am** Don't Tell the Bride

Variations & S4C

WALES As BBC1 except: **1.35-1.45pm** BBC Wales Today **6.30-6.55** BBC Wales Today; Weather **10.30-10.40pm** BBC Wales Today

WALES As BBC2 except: **7.00pm** Celebrity Mastermind. With Stuart Pearce, Gemma Cairney, Axel Blake and Phil Dunning. Last in series. **7.30-8.00pm** Nigella: At My Table

MERIDIAN As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Meridian **6.00-6.25** ITV News Meridian; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Meridian

CENTRAL As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Central; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Central; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Central; Weather

ITV WALES As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Cymru Wales; Weather

WEST As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country; Weather

ANGLIA As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV

ITVQuiz FREEVIEW 28

9.00am Deal or No Deal **10.00** Tipping Point **1.00pm** Lingo **2.00** Tenable for Soccer Aid **3.00** Wheel of Fortune **4.00** Time Is Money **5.00** Deal or No Deal

6.00 **Lingo** Triple bill. Adil Ray hosts the game in which colleagues Mikie and Katie, mates Nia and Sarah and James and his dad Nick use their skills to find words from the fewest letters possible; Adil Ray returns with the quiz; crossing words with the reigning Lingo champions are Tina and her husband Kwame and married couple Jo and Mike. Adil Ray hosts.

9.00 **Beat the Chasers** The Beast, The Governess, The Vixen, The Sinnerman, The Dark Destroyer and The Menace... they're the greatest quiz team ever, but can anyone Beat the Chasers?

10.00 **Tipping Point** Double bill.

12.00m't Tipping Point **12.55** Tenable for Soccer Aid **1.50** Unwind with ITV **2.00-9.00am** Teleshopping

U&Drama FREEVIEW 20

6.00am Teleshopping **7.25** The Bill **8.25** Doctors **9.35** Classic Holby City **10.40** Classic Casualty **11.50** The Bill **12.50pm** Classic EastEnders **2.10** All Creatures Great and Small **3.10** Howards' Way **4.20** Bergerac **5.20** The Thin Blue Line

6.00 **To the Manor Born** Richard wants to build a refrigeration plant in Argentina.

6.40 **Last of the Summer Wine** Double bill.

8.00 **Darby and Joan** Double bill. Sparks fly when Jack and Joan have to share a hotel room in a small-town pub on New Year's Eve; Jack faces his past mistakes.

10.00 **New Tricks** A 79-year-old woman with dementia turns up at a police station to report a murder – sparking a reinvestigation into the 1956 disappearance of her husband.

11.20 **Waking the Dead** Part two of two. A boy's life hangs in the balance.

12.40am Sister Boniface Mysteries **1.40** The Thin Blue Line **2.15** The Brokenwood Mysteries **4.00-6.00am** Teleshopping

More4 FREEVIEW 18

8.55am Strangers on a Plane **9.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It **10.25** A Place in the Sun **11.30** Come Dine with Me: five episodes **2.10pm** Four in a Bed: five episodes **4.50** A Place in the Sun **5.55** Car S.O.S

6.55 **Car S.O.S** Tim Shaw and Fuzz Townshend head to Lincolnshire to work on a 1929 Rolls-Royce 'doctor's coupe'.

7.55 **The Dog House** Staff at Woodgreen animal charity set out to match their homeless dogs with prospective owners.

9.00 **24 Hours in A&E** Double bill. A teenager is rushed to hospital after putting his hand through a pane of glass; a 52-year-old cyclist is rushed in.

11.05 **999: On the Front Line** A woman falls getting off a bus and cuts her leg, and a pharmacist calls 999, worried that a child's rash could be a sign of meningitis.

12.10am **999: On the Front Line**. Two paramedic crews rush to a man who is said to not be breathing. **1.15** 24 Hours in A&E **3.25-3.50am** Food Unwrapped

News Anglia; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News Anglia; Weather

WESTCOUNTRY As ITV1 except: **1.55-2.00pm** ITV News West Country; Weather **6.00-6.25** ITV News West Country; Weather **10.30-10.45pm** ITV News West Country

S4C **6.00am** Cyw **11.00** Dysgu Gyda Cyw **12.00noon** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **12.05pm** Cymry ar Gynfas **12.30** Heno **1.00** Cartrefi Cymru **1.30** Gwlad y Basg: Gwilym Bowen Rhys **2.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **3.05** Priodas Pum Mil **4.00** Awr Fawr **5.00** Stwnsh **6.00** Rallio+ **6.25** Darllediad Gwleidyddol **6.30** Rownd a Rownd **6.57** Newyddion S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Brynmor realises he has to accept Garry's terms. **8.25** Y Deis. Quiz show, hosted by James Williams. **8.55** Newyddion S4C a'r Tywydd **9.00** Dal y Mellt. Gronw arrives in Cardiff as the gang get back together. **10.00** Byd Eithafol: Neo-Nazis yn Ein Plith **11.00-11.35pm** Welsh Whisperer – Ni'n Teithio Nawr! The Welsh Whisperer visits Llanllwni in Carmarthenshire.

BBC3 FREEVIEW 23

7.00pm **The Catch Up** headlines.

7.05 **SpongeBob SquarePants**

7.30 **Deadly 60** From Australia.

8.00 **Top Gear** Richard Hammond drives the Porsche 918 Spyder and Jeremy Clarkson creates a public information film with James May to promote safer cycling. With Breaking Bad star Aaron Paul.

9.00 **The Beauty Queen and the Catfish** Triple bill. A nurse who targeted, harassed, stalked and exploited hundreds of women; Abbie Draper takes her findings to the police; the victims finally have justice, but are still left searching for answers. Last in series.

11.15 **FILM** **Queen & Slim** (2019, 15) Drama, starring Daniel Kaluuya and Bokeem Woodbine. ★★★★★

1.20am Danielle Does Life **1.35** Top Gear **2.35-3.55am** RuPaul's Drag Race UK vs the World

BBC4 FREEVIEW 9

7.00pm **Great British Railway Journeys** Michael Portillo explores Bradford and Hebden Bridge.

7.30 **Wainwright Walks** High Street in the Lake District's fells.

8.00 **Brian Cox's Adventures in Space and Time** The most intriguing questions facing science.

9.00 **Tribe** Bruce Parry travels to the Amazon rainforest, where he stays with the remote Matis people.

10.00 **Smiley's People** Double bill. Smiley plans to visit old friends after discovering Vladimir quarrelled with his postman Toby Esterhase; the spy gets into trouble with his superiors.

11.55 **Sleuths, Spies & Sorcerers: Andrew Marr's Paperback Heroes** Andrew explores the fantasy genre.

12.55am Great British Railway Journeys **1.25** Wainwright Walks **1.55** Tribe **2.55-3.55am** Brian Cox's Adventures in Space and Time

GB News FREEVIEW 236

6.00am Breakfast with Eamonn and Ellie **9.30** Britain's Newsroom **12.00noon** PMQs Live **1.00** Good Afternoon Britain **3.00** Martin Daubney

6.00 **Dewbs & Co** Plain-speaking, straight-talking – Michelle Dewberry delivers her take on the day's news.

7.00 **Farage** An action-packed hour of topical discussion and debate.

8.00 **Jacob Rees-Mogg's State Of The Nation** Join Jacob for his unique and unmissable take on the news.

9.00 **Patrick Christys Tonight Replay** Join Patrick for two hours of debate and news making interviews. Top guests tackle the issues that matter, with a sharp take on every story.

11.00 **Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition** News and debate show.

12.00m't The Late Show Live **2.00** Farage Replay **3.00** Patrick Christys Tonight Replay **5.00-6.00am** Patrick Christys Tonight Late Edition

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Sport

SKY SPORTS MAIN EVENT

6.00am Sky Sports News **7.00** Sky Sports Breakfast. The latest headlines and reports. **7.30 [LIVE] ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** Coverage of a Super Six match in Zimbabwe. **3.00pm** Sports Desk **4.00** The Transfer Show **5.00** The Premier League Show **5.30 [LIVE] FIFA Women's Champions Cup** Arsenal v FAR Rabat (kick-off 6.00pm). **8.30** Gillette Labs Soccer Special **10.15** Soccer Special Post-Match **10.30** Back Pages Tonight **11.00pm-6.00am** Sky Sports News

SKY SPORTS CRICKET

6.00am WPL **7.00** Best of England v South Africa **7.15 [LIVE] ICC Under-19s World Cup Cricket** Coverage of a Super Six match. **3.00pm** Best of ICC WT20 **3.30** Best of England v South Africa **3.45** Best of ICC WT20 **4.00** WPL **5.00** SA20 **6.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup – The Greatest Matches **7.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 – The Experts' View **8.00** The Story of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final 2024 **9.00** ICC Men's T20 World Cup – The Greatest Matches **9.30** ICC Men's T20 World Cup – The Greatest Matches **10.00** WPL **11.00** WPL **12.00m't** Big Bash League **3.20** Best of J Anderson: 500th Wicket **3.30** Best of England v South Africa **3.45** Best of ICC WT20 **4.00-6.00am** WPL

SKY SPORTS FOOTBALL

6.00am Championship Retro **8.45** EFL Greatest Games **10.00** EFL Cup Retro **11.00** EFL League One Goals **11.30** EFL League Two Goals **12.00noon** EFL Highlights **12.15 [LIVE] FIFA Women's Champions Cup** Gotham FC v Corinthians (kick-off 12.30pm). Coverage of the first semi-final of the intercontinental club competition from Gtech Community Stadium in Brentford. **2.30** EFL Highlights **3.30** EFL League One Goals **4.00** EFL League Two Goals **4.30** SPFL Round-Up **4.45** SPFL Highlights **5.00** WSL **5.30 [LIVE] FIFA Women's Champions Cup** Arsenal v FAR Rabat (kick-off 6.00pm). Coverage of the second semi-final of the intercontinental club competition from Gtech Community Stadium. **8.30** EFL League One Goals **9.00** EFL League Two Goals **9.30** Bundesliga Highlights Show **10.30** WSL **11.00** EFL Highlights **11.30** EFL Greatest Games **12.00m't** SPFL: Old Firm Derby Best Goals **12.30** SPFL: Edinburgh Derby Best Goals **1.00** Craig Brown: My Scotland **1.30** There's Only One Sauzee **2.00** EFL Greatest Games **4.00** EFL Cup Highlights **5.00** Best Goals: EFL Cup 2022/23 **5.30-6.00am** EFL Trophy Football

SKY SPORTS GOLF

6.00am The Open Zone **6.30** Ladies European Tour Golf **10.30** TGL **12.30pm** Ladies European Tour Golf **3.35** Mark Roe's Short Game School **4.00** TGL **6.00** PGA Tour Championships **7.00** PGA Tour: The Cut **7.30** Beyond the Scorecard **8.00** TGL **10.00** The Big 5 Roundtable **12.00m't** PGA Tour: The Cut **12.30** PGA Tour Golf **1.30** Nick Dougherty's Tee Time Tips **2.00** How the 2010 Ryder Cup Was Won **4.00** Best of the Open Zone 2017 **5.00-6.00am** Roots

TNT SPORTS 1

6.00am Men's Cycling Pro Series. Action from stage one of the AlUla Tour in Saudi Arabia. **7.00 [LIVE] Australian Open** Coverage of day 11 of the opening Grand Slam event of the season, featuring quarter-final matches in Melbourne. **1.15pm [LIVE] International T20 Cricket** India v New Zealand. The fourth T20 in the five-match series from ACA-VDCA Cricket Stadium. **5.15** TNT Sports Reload **5.45** Premier League Reload **6.00** UEFA Champions League Magazine **6.30** UEFA Champions League. The build-up. **7.30** UEFA Champions League Goals Show Xtra **11.00** Original Documentary **12.00m't** Premier League – The Big Interview **12.30** Men's Cycling Pro Series **2.30** Suzuki UTE A-League Highlights **3.00** Australian Open **4.30** Serie A – Full Impact **5.00-6.00am** Dakar Rally Saudi Arabia

TNT SPORTS 2

6.00am German Masters Snooker **8.00** Premier League Review **9.00** Tour de France Men Highlights **10.00** Men's Alpine Skiing World Cup **11.00 [LIVE] A-League Women** Perth Glory Women v Sydney FC Women (kick-off 11.00am). Coverage from Sam Kerr Football Centre. **1.00pm** Suzuki UTE A-League Highlights **1.30** Premier League – The Big Interview **2.00 [LIVE] German Masters Snooker** Further coverage from the third day of the tournament, which takes place at Tempodrom in Berlin. **5.00** Australian Open. Highlights from day 11. **6.30 [LIVE] UEFA Champions League** Liverpool v Qarabag (kick-off 8.00pm). Coverage of the league phase match from Anfield, in the first ever meeting between the two sides. The hosts are well placed to finish in the top eight and qualify for the last 16 automatically, while the visitors could still reach the play-off stages, as both teams play their final game of the league phase. **10.00** UEFA Champions League Goals Show Xtra. All the goals. **11.00** Fight Week **11.30** UFC **2.30am** Fight Week **3.00** International T20 Cricket Highlights **4.00** One Day International Cricket **5.00-6.00am** WRC Review

Entertainment & Factual

ITV3 Freeview 10

6.00am Never the Twain **6.30** On the Buses **7.05** Classic Emmerdale **8.40** Classic Coronation Street **9.10** Inspector Morse **11.20** Heartbeat **1.20pm** Foyle's War **3.30** Classic Emmerdale **4.40** Classic Coronation Street **5.50** Heartbeat **8.00** Grace **10.00** Foyle's War **11.55** Trial & Retribution **1.30-2.30am** The Larkins

ITV4 Freeview 26

6.00am The Big Match Revisited **8.05** Magnum, PI **9.05** Kojak **10.10** Boon **11.20** The Sweeney **12.25pm** Robin of Sherwood **1.35** Magnum, PI **2.35** Kojak **3.45** Boon **4.50** The Sweeney **5.55** Minder **7.00** Gallagher PREM Unleashed **8.00** Junk & Disorderly **9.00 [FILM]** Thunderball (1965/PG) James Bond spy adventure, starring Sean Connery and Claudine Auger. **★★★** **11.40** All Elite Wrestling: Collision **1.35am** Minder **2.35** Unwind with ITV **3.00** Teleshopping **3.30-4.00am** Motorsport Mundial

5STAR Freeview 32

8.00am Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun **10.00** Shoplifters: Caught Red Handed **11.00** Traffic Cops **12.00noon** Police Interceptors **5.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **6.00** Home and Away **7.00** Fare Dodgers: At War with the Law **8.00** Call the Bailiffs: Time to Pay Up **9.00 [FILM]** Max Payne (2008/15) Action thriller, starring Mark Wahlberg. **★★★** **11.00** Fights, Camera, Action! **1.00am** Police Interceptors **3.35-4.00am** Friends

REALLY Freeview 44

6.00am Celebrity Fantasy Homes **7.00** Cruise TV with LoveitBookit **8.00** Escape to the Country **9.00** Salvage Hunters **12.00noon** Antiques Road Trip **2.00** The Repair Shop **3.00** The Yorkshire Auction House **4.00** Long Lost Family **5.00** A Place in the Sun. Advice on buying a second home abroad. **6.00** Salvage Hunters **9.00** Fixer to Fabulous. Dave and Jenny buy a lakeside cabin to renovate into a cosy retreat. **10.00** Home Town. Ben and Erin Napier help people moving to their small town of Laurel, Mississippi. **11.00** Help! My House Is Haunted **2.00am** Teleshopping **4.00-6.00am** Salvage Hunters

5ACTION Freeview 33

9.00am Entertainment News on 5 **9.10** Trucking Hell **9.25** Traffic Cops **10.25** Police Interceptors **12.25pm [FILM]** Day of Anger (1967/15) **★★** **2.15 [FILM]** Red Mountain (1951/PG) Western, starring Alan Ladd. **★★** **4.00** The Motorway **5.00** Traffic Cops **6.00** Police Interceptors **8.00** Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders **9.00** Traffic Cops **10.00** Police: Night Shift 999 **11.00** Banged Up Abroad **12.00m't** World's Deadliest Weather: Caught on Camera **1.05** Ice Road Truckers **2.05-4.00am** Trucking Hell

SKY ARTS Freeview 36

6.00am Cirque du Soleil: Quidam **8.00** The Joy of Painting **9.00** Tales of the Unexpected **10.00** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.00** The Directors **12.00noon** Discovering: Julianne Moore **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** The Art of the Garden **3.00** World War II & Cinema **4.00** The Directors **5.00** Discovering: Sean Penn **6.00** Tales of the Unexpected: double bill

BBC RADIO 1

97.6-99.8MHz 6.58am Newsbeat **7.00** Radio 1 Breakfast with Greg James **10.30** Newsbeat **10.33** Rickie, Melvin and Charlie **12.45pm** Newsbeat **1.00** Matt and Mollie **3.30** Newsbeat **3.33** Going Home with Katie and Jerry **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Radio 1's New Music Show with Jack Saunders **8.00** Radio 1's Future Pop with Mollie King **10.00** Radio 1's Power Down Playlist with Sian Eleri **11.00** Benji B **1.00am** Radio 1 Dance Presents **2.00** Radio 1 Anthems **4.00** Radio 1 Pop Anthems **5.00-6.58am** Radio 1 Early Breakfast with Dean McCullough

BBC RADIO 2

88-91MHz 6.30am The Scott Mills Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00noon** Jeremy Vine **2.00** DJ Spoony **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whaley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whaley **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe **10.00** The Good Groove with Melvin Odoom **12.00m't** OJ Borg **3.00** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00-6.30am** Owain Wyn Evans

BBC RADIO 3

90.2-92.4MHz 6.30am Breakfast **9.30** Essential Classics **1.00pm** Classical Live **3.00** Choral Evensong **4.00** Composer of the Week: Franz Xaver Wolfgang Mozart **5.00** In Tune **7.00** Classical Mixtape **7.30** Radio 3 in Concert **9.45** The Essay: On Disappointment **10.00** Night Tracks. Tunes. **11.30** 'Round Midnight **12.30-6.30am** Through the Night



Jericho Ridge Sky Max, 9pm
Nikki Amuka-Bird (left) plays injured police deputy Tabby Temple, who returns to work after a period of leave and ends up defending her sheriff's office from criminals. Zack Morris and Simon Kunz also star.

7.00 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: double bill **8.00** Landscape Artist of the Year 2026 **9.00** Art's Most Erotic **10.00** Art's Most Horrific **11.00** Art's Most Satanic **12.00m't** The Warhol Effect **2.00** Blind Eye Artist **3.40** Van Gogh by Vincent **4.40-6.00am** National Trust: National Treasures

U&GOLD

7.30am Ever Decreasing Circles **8.00** The Green Green Grass **8.40** Dad's Army **9.20** Are You Being Served? **10.00** Open All Hours **10.40** Keeping Up Appearances **11.20** Last of the Summer Wine **12.40pm** The Green Green Grass **1.20** Ever Decreasing Circles **2.00** Dad's Army **2.40** Are You Being Served? **3.20** Open All Hours **4.00** Ever Decreasing Circles **4.40** Last of the Summer Wine **6.00** Keeping Up Appearances **6.40** Open All Hours **7.20** Dad's Army **8.00** The Vicar of Dibley **10.15** Men Behaving Badly **10.55** The Vicar of Dibley **1.10am** Men Behaving Badly **1.50** The Vicar of Dibley **3.05-4.00am** Men Behaving Badly

U&YESTERDAY Freeview 27

6.10am Great Continental Railway Journeys **8.00** Bangers & Cash **10.00** Hitler's Supercars **11.00** World War Weird **12.00noon** Antiques Roadshow **2.00** Bangers & Cash **4.00** Hitler's Supercars **5.00** World War Weird **6.00** Antiques Roadshow **7.00** Great Canal Journeys **8.00** Abandoned Engineering. Ambitious projects left in ruins. **9.00** Mega Metro. Australia's largest transport project nears completion. Last in series. **10.00** Bangers & Cash **1.00am** Abandoned Engineering **2.00-3.00am** Hitler's Supercars

U&ALIBI

7.15am Murdoch Mysteries **9.00** Father Brown **10.00** The Mentalist **11.00** Hudson & Rex **12.00noon** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00** Murdoch Mysteries **4.00** The Mentalist **5.00** Hudson & Rex **6.00** Father Brown **7.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **8.00** Death in Paradise **11.00** Father Brown **12.00m't** So Help Me Todd **1.00** Death in Paradise **2.00-4.00am** Murdoch Mysteries

SKY MAX

6.00am Hawaii Five-0 **8.00** The Flash **9.00** Stargate SG-1 **11.00** SEAL Team **12.00noon** The Flash **1.00** Hawaii Five-0 **3.05** S.W.A.T **4.10** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.15** SEAL Team **6.15** Stargate SG-1 **8.15** Never Mind the Buzzcocks **9.00 [FILM]** Jericho Ridge (2023/15) Thriller, with Nikki Amuka-Bird. **★★★**

Radio

CHOICE

The Artificial Human Radio 4, 3.30pm

With markets growing sceptical that the eye-watering sums being invested in AI will show a return and comparisons with the dot-com crash being widely made, Aleks Krotoski and Kevin Fong ask if the AI bubble is about to burst. They'll consider the potential consequences of a 'major correction' to its valuation.

BBC RADIO 4

FM 92.4-94.6MHz 6.00am Today **9.00** More or Less **9.30** Putin and the Apartment Bombs **10.00** Woman's Hour **11.00** The Newscast Review of the Year (So Far) **11.40** This Week in History **11.45** Book of the Week: Craftland **12.00noon** News **12.04** You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.00** The World at One **1.45** The Fibre Factor **2.00** The Archers **2.15** Drama: 7 Ghosts **3.00** Money Box **3.30** The Artificial Human **4.00** When It Hits the Fan **4.15** The Media Show **5.00** PM **5.57** Weather **6.00** News **6.30** Why in the Name of Pierre Novellie **7.00** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.00** AntiSocial **8.45** Magic Consultants **9.00** Ransom Man **9.30** Inside Health **10.00** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: The Memory Police **11.00** Doctors on Hold **11.15** The Skewer **11.30** Today in Parliament **12.00m't** News **12.30** Book of the Week: Craftland **12.48** Shipping **1.00** As BBC World Service

10.50 Fear the Walking Dead. Drama. **11.50** The Force: Manchester **2.00am** Road Wars **3.00** S.W.A.T **4.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **5.00-6.00am** Highway Patrol

SKY ATLANTIC

6.00am Urban Secrets **7.00** Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets **8.00** Boardwalk Empire **10.10** The Sopranos **12.20pm** Game of Thrones **2.30** The Wire **4.40** Westworld **5.45** Deadwood **6.50** Game of Thrones **9.00** Mare of Easttown. Crime drama. **10.10** Heated Rivalry **12.20am** Deadwood **1.25** The Sopranos **2.30** Game of Thrones **4.35** In Treatment **5.05-6.00am** Fish Town

SKY WITNESS

6.00am Nothing to Declare **8.00** Border Patrol **9.00** Send in the Dogs **10.00** Border Security: Canada's Front Line **11.00** A1: Britain's Longest Road **12.00noon** FBI **1.00** The Rookie **3.00** Watson **4.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **5.00** Nothing to Declare **7.00** Police 24/7 **8.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **9.00** Matlock **10.00** Doc **11.00** The Rookie **12.00m't** FBI **1.00** Law & Order: Criminal Intent **2.00** Law & Order: Organized Crime **3.00** Road Wars **5.00-6.00am** The Force: Manchester

SKY COMEDY

8.00am Will & Grace **9.00** Ballers **10.20** Sex and the City **11.30** Entourage **12.30pm** Will & Grace **1.30** Sex and the City **2.40** Ballers **3.50** And Just Like That **4.45** The Office (US) **5.45** Will & Grace **6.45** Community **7.45** Sex and the City **9.00** Larry David: Curb Your Enthusiasm. Spoof documentary. **10.15** And Just Like That **11.05** Community **12.05am** Entourage **1.15** Ballers **2.25** Curb Your Enthusiasm **3.40-5.00am** Silicon Valley

DISCOVERY

6.00am How Do They Do It? **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Gold Rush: White Water **11.00** Diesel Brothers **1.00pm** Deadliest Catch **3.00** How Do They Do It? **5.00** Alaska: Homestead Rescue **7.00** Wheeler Dealers **9.00** Mud Madness. Josh needs a Hail Mary, Bryce is out of his element, and the pressure pushes AJ to his limits. **10.00** Kindig Customs **11.00** Expedition Unknown **12.00m't** Deadliest Catch **1.00** Mud Madness **2.00** Kindig Customs **3.00** Gold Divers **4.00-5.00am** Moonshiners

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

8.00am Inside Incredible Machines **9.00** Air Crash Investigation **10.00** Seconds from Disaster **11.00** WW2: Hell Under the Sea **12.00noon** World War II: Secrets from Above **1.00** Air Crash Investigation **3.00** Liberation: D-Day to Berlin **4.00** The Challenger Disaster: Lost Tapes **5.00** Ice Road Rescue **6.00** Nazi Megastructures **7.00** Air Crash Investigation. An aircraft design flaw that caused two accidents. **8.00** Pole to Pole with Will Smith. Will travels to the kingdom of Bhutan in search of the secret to happiness. **9.00** Hitler's Last Stand **10.00** Gladiators: Warriors of the Ancient World **11.00** Air Crash Investigation **12.00m't** Car S.O.S **1.00** Toronto Airport Uncovered **2.00** Trafficked with Mariana Van Zeller **2.30** Made in a Day **3.20** Food Factory **4.10-5.00am** Secrets of the Zoo: Keeper Tales

BBC RADIO 5 LIVE

693/909kHz 6.00am 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **2.00pm** Matt Chorley **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport **10.30** Tony Livesey **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo **5.00-6.00am** Wake Up to Money

BBC RADIO WALES

FM: 94.6MHz 6.00am Radio Wales News Update **6.05** Wake Up with Radio Wales **6.31** Science Cafe **7.00** Radio Wales Breakfast **9.00** Bronwen Lewis **11.59** The Phone In **2.00pm** Behnaz Akhgar **5.00** Radio Wales Drive **6.30** Country Focus **7.00** Country with Bronwen Lewis **10.00** Eleri Sion **12.00m't** Relax with Radio Wales **1.00-6.00am** As Radio 5 Live

CLASSIC FM

100-102MHz 6.30am Classic FM Breakfast with Dan Walker **9.00** The Classic FM Hall of Fame with Dan Walker **10.00** Alexander Armstrong **1.00pm** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Relaxing Evenings **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Bill Overton **4.00-6.30am** Early Breakfast

ABSOLUTE RADIO

DAB 6.00am Dave Berry **10.00** Leona Graham **1.00pm** Ben Burrell **4.00** Bush and Richie **7.00** Danielle Perry **10.00** Jay Lawrence **1.00-6.00am** Dan Noble

Movies

FILM4

11.00am **The Black Arrow** (1948/U) Adventure, starring Louis Hayward and Janet Blair. **★★★** **12.35pm** **The Desert Fox** (1951/PG) Second World War drama, with James Mason. **★★★** **2.20** **River of No Return** (1954/PG) Western, starring Marilyn Monroe. **★★★** **4.10** **Dad's Army** (1971/U) Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. **★★★★** **6.00** **Le Mans '66** (2019/12) Fact-based drama, with Matt Damon and Christian Bale. **★★★★** **9.00** **Daredevil** (2003/15) A blind attorney with radar-like senses leads a double life as a masked vigilante fighting evil on the streets of New York. Comic-book adventure, with Ben Affleck and Colin Farrell. **★★★** **11.05** **The Last Duel** (2021/18) Drama, starring Matt Damon and Adam Driver. **★★★★** **2.05-4.00am** **Wildfire** (2021) Drama, starring Nora-Jane Noone and Nika McGuigan.

SKY CINEMA PREMIERE

6.00am **Smurfs** (2025/PG) See 1.20pm. **★★★** **7.35** **The Ballad of Wallis Island** (2025/12) Comedy drama, starring Tim Key. **★★★★★** **9.25** **Nuremberg** (2025/15) See 6.30pm. **★★★★** **11.55** **Super Charlie** (2024/PG) Family animation, with the voice of Alex Kelly. **★★★** **1.20pm** **Smurfs** (2025/PG) Fantasy comedy, featuring the voice of Riihanna. **★★★** **2.55** **Xeno** (2025/PG) See 12.50am. **★★★★** **4.45** **Borderline** (2025/15) Dark comedy horror, starring Samara Weaving. **★★★** **6.30** **Nuremberg** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. **★★★★** **9.00** **The Toxic Avenger** (2025/18) Comedy horror, starring Peter Dinklage. **★★★** **10.50** **28 Years Later** (2025/15) Horror, starring Jodie Comer. **★★★★** **12.50am** **Xeno** (2025/PG) Fantasy adventure, with Lulu Wilson and Omari Hardwick. **★★★** **2.40** **Safe House** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Holt McCallany and Hannah John-Kamen. **★★★** **4.15-6.00am** **Beast of War** (2025/15) Thriller, starring Mark Coles Smith. **★★**

SKY CINEMA DRAMA

4.00pm **Chuck Chuck Baby** (2024/15) Drama, with Louise Brealey. **★★★** **5.45** **It Ends With Us** (2024/15) Drama, with Blake Lively and Justin Baldoni. **★★★★** **8.00** **American Sniper** (2014/15) Biopic, starring Bradley Cooper. **★★★★** **10.15** **Empire of the Sun** (1987/PG) Drama, with Christian Bale. **★★★★** **12.50am** **Carmen** (2022/15) Musical, with Melissa Barrera and Paul Mescal. **★★★** **2.50** **The Angels' Share** (2021/15) Comedy, with Paul Brannigan. **★★★★** **4.40-6.40am** **Do the Right Thing** (1989/15) Drama, with Spike Lee. **★★★★★**

SKY CINEMA FAMILY

4.00pm **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows** (2016/12) Action adventure, starring Megan Fox and Will Arnett. **★★★** **6.00** **Wicked</**

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- Mon 11 Embark *Queen Mary 2* and depart Southampton
- Fri 15 Funchal, Madeira
- Fri 22 Basseterre, St. Kitts
- Sun 24 - Mon 25 **Bridgetown, Barbados** (overnight)
A town steeped in history, surrounded by an abundance of natural beauty with plenty to see and do, Bridgetown is the perfect location. Sitting on the southwestern side of the island of Barbados, Bridgetown is a lively and bustling gateway to the wider treasures the island holds. From sun-kissed beaches, underground caverns, and glass-like lagoons to emerald jungles and vast historic plantations, Barbados is a paradise just waiting to be explored
- Wed 27 **Castries, St. Lucia**
Tucked on the northwest coast of St. Lucia is its capital, Castries. With a pretty harbour that faces out to the Caribbean Sea, Castries is an idyllic place to explore. With its colonial past, Castries is home to some important, historical landmarks and rewarding lookout points
- Thu 28 **St. George's, Grenada**
- Fri 29 **Roseau, Dominica**



- Sat 30 **English Harbour, Antigua**
On the south coast of the island of Antigua is English Harbour, a small settlement that has a big history. When in English Harbour, there are several landmarks and sights you could seek out to get to know the island and its people, such as Nelson's Dockyard and Shirley Heights Lookout



FEBRUARY 2027

- Mon 1 **Amber Cove, Dominican Republic**
- Wed 3 **Philipsburg, St. Maarten**
Time spent in St. Maarten will leave you full of memories of turquoise waters, colourful buildings, palm-fringed beaches and more
- Wed 10 **Santa Cruz, Tenerife**
- Sun 14 **Arrive in Southampton**
Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Letters

Edited by **GREG MORGAN**

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● [facebook.com/dailyexpress](https://www.facebook.com/dailyexpress)
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Suella has seen the light and is a fantastic asset

I MET Suella Braverman a couple of years ago while she was campaigning for the Conservatives before the last general election.

I told her the Tories had badly let Britain down, especially when it came to stopping the boats and controlling our borders.

She agreed. I then suggested she join Reform UK, a suggestion she tried to laugh off but I could tell she was tempted ("Suella: Defecting is the only way we can fix broken Britain", January 27).

I like Suella. She is an intelligent, passionate and brave lady. I hope the next British government is a Reform one. The majority have had all they can take of the dreadful Tories and abysmal Labour, neither care about the issues that matter to the British people.

Stefan Badham,
Portsmouth

Reform UK is same old Tories... always defecting

YET another self-seeking politician jumping ship, from my point of view Reform UK is welcome to them. Kemi Badenoch and the Conservatives should not worry unduly, those jumping are thinking solely of themselves, not the party, not the greater good. Nigel Farage's problems are beginning to mount.

Bill Young,
Winsford, Cheshire

Call a by-election every time an MP jumps ship

ONCE again another MP defects to a different party to which they were elected. This must be stopped ("Let voters decide if defecting MPs can stay in Parliament", January 26).

MPs are elected to represent their party at the time and should not be allowed to change their allegiance on a whim. They must be made to resign and face a by-election.

I expect Keir Starmer rubs his hands together every time, but I'm sure if his cronies started doing it he would introduce some form of legislation to stop the rot.

David Sallis,
Byfleet, Surrey

Starmer and his cronies are masters of U-turns

YOU begin now to feel that no matter what new initiatives Keir Starmer and the Labour Government proposes that the tide has indeed turned against them ("Legal battle to go on over axed local elections", January 21).

Their critics and the objectors start immediately rolling out every opposing position they can think off, followed by the other political parties that are against their socialist ideology. U-turns, cancellations and backtracking have now become the enduring feature of this government.

June Richardson,
Stirling

Scared-stiff Labour has killed nation's democracy

WITH 29 local elections postponed until 2027, does Labour really think this is democracy in action? It

LETTER OF THE DAY



WARNING FROM HISTORY: Holocaust survivor Eva Clarke

We're letting antisemitism run riot in UK

DOUBTLESS world leaders will use the Holocaust Memorial Day as another opportunity to vow never to allow anything like it to ever happen again and to stamp out antisemitism in their countries, but as survivor Eva Clarke knows then do so little in practice ("Now stop the hate", January 27).

Left-wing governments allow anti-Israel marches in cities, while their media outlets like our BBC broadcast blatantly pro-Palestinian bias in their Gaza coverage.

But worst of all is the United Nations, which created Israel 78 years ago, but has done nothing to support it.

Without the US it wouldn't have survived its seven wars of survival.

Roy Daniels,
Kingsclere, Hants

would have us believe this is for the good of our democracy.

Labour is running scared at losing hundreds of seats to Reform.

It puts on par with countries like Russia, China and North Korea.

Unless these elections go ahead as planned, democracy is dead in our beloved country.

Brett Trafford,
Vyne Park, Hants

Desperate Keir pulls rank to thwart his natural heir

IF YOU are a decent manager doing a good job then you wouldn't be worried about someone who possibly wants your job ("Labour war as Starmer blocks Burnham bid to be MP", January 26).

So by blocking Andy Burnham from standing for parliament proves you are not up to the job and you're running scared. If you worry your staff won't support you it further proves you are not managing. Just resign, Starmer, and get it over with. All parties need a manager they support.

Anne Jones,
Stalybridge, Cheshire

At last! PM finally stands up for himself and nation

FINALLY Keir Starmer is showing he is no pushover for those who are

a danger to himself or the nation. All in the space of a week.

The first was Donald Trump in his desire to malign British soldiers, and he gave Trump a few harsh words ("Starmer blasts Trump and calls for apology", January 24).

The second is crushing a wannabe replacement in Andy Burnham, whose blatant ambition to use a by-election for personal progression was stymied by the PM. Perhaps he can see off others which the UK could do without – Lucy Powell, Angela Rayner and Rachel Reeves.

Warren Browning,
Rugby, Warks

Ultimate power play to keep out rival Burnham

AS EX-PM Harold Wilson once said, "A week is a long time in politics", and he has been proved right as recent events have shown.

Keir Starmer has moved the goalposts to use Labour's NEC to block Andy Burnham from standing as an MP. So much for democracy.

It would be nice if the public had a say in all of this.

Forget it, politics is all about power and the players are career politicians. Andy, your opponents are in the opposition parties and your enemies in your own.

David Fleming,
Downham Market, Norfolk

Armed forces must patrol Crowborough illegals camp

MY SYMPATHIES lie with the people of Crowborough who are now bearing the brunt of the whole country's anger over illegal migrants. However moving these people into army facilities has to be a sensible option as it frees up the hotels ("Anger over migrants", January 26).

But these facilities are not patrolled and secure, meaning whoever is staying there can leave at will. They are illegal, therefore should not be free to roam and hang around schools.

Liz Armstrong,
Flamborough, E Yorks

Amanda's naked ambition for nude roast too risky

WHY on earth would Amanda Holden choose to be starkers when cooking her family a roast dinner ("We can't bear it, Amanda", January 24)? I would have thought she was taking a chance when taking a dish of roast potatoes out of the oven, there could be splashes of hot fat on all sorts of parts of the body, proving awkward to explain in A&E.

Lynne English,
Wickford, Essex

SMARTPHONES, DUMB PARENTS WHO BUY THEM FOR THEIR KIDS

I MUST be missing something about all this fuss regarding mobile phones in schools to keep the kids safe ("Classroom phone curb rollout bid", January 22). Unless the children have jobs, which I doubt, surely the onus is on the parents who buy these expensive phones and contracts, not the

kids, so stop supplying them. If they are for contact reasons then a basic phone does the job, but I doubt this would suffice because of course these phones are not trendy enough. So the blame lies with whoever supplies these phones to begin with.

Una Mcmonagle,
Bournemouth, Dorset



TODAY: Wednesday
January 28, 2026

ON THIS DAY



59 years ago (1967)

We reported the tragic deaths of Apollo 1 astronauts Virgil "Gus" Grissom, Edward White and Roger Chaffee after their command module caught fire during preparations for the first crewed Moon test flight.

The blaze began in the electrical system, before spreading to the oxygen supply. Grissom was the second American to fly into space, while White was the first US astronaut to walk in space.

73 years ago (1953)

Derek Bentley, 19, who had learning difficulties, was hanged for his part in the murder of PC Sidney Miles during a bungled robbery at a warehouse in Croydon, south London.

Bentley's execution led to a lifelong campaign by his family to clear his name.

His conviction was overturned in 1998.

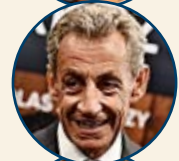
44 years ago (1982)

Police in Padua, Italy rescued US Brigadier General James Dozier who had been held captive by the communist guerrilla group Red Brigade for 42 days. The deputy chief of staff at Nato's Southern European headquarters was seized from his flat in Verona by terrorists who were posing as plumbers.

BIRTHDAYS



Athlete **Dame Jessica Ennis-Hill** is 40. She's known as the Queen of the Heptathlon.



Ex-French President **Nicolas Sarkozy** is 71.



He is wed to model Carla Bruni. Singer **Nick Carter** is 46. He has a powerboat racing team.



TV presenter **Roman Kemp** is 33. He won Celebrity Race Across The World with his sister Harleymoon.

TODAY'S GIGGLE

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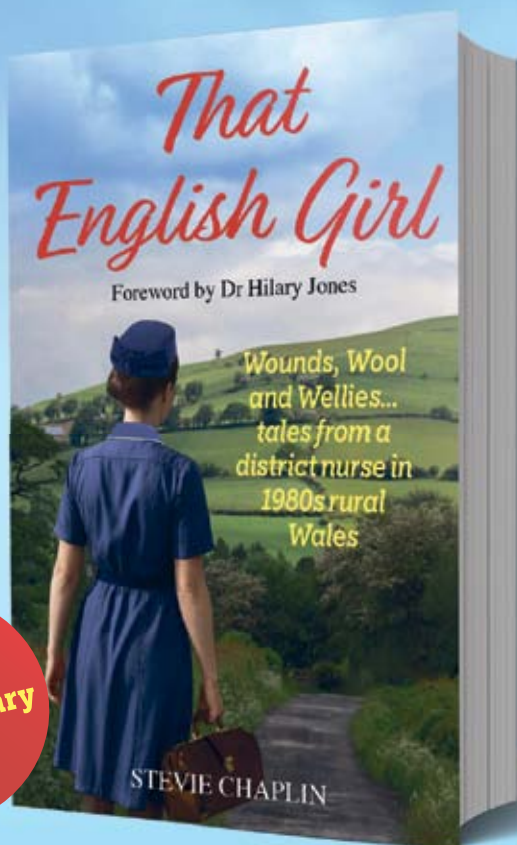
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TALES OF A DISTRICT NURSE IN 1980s RURAL WALES

She arrived as a stranger in a different land. She emerged wiser with great friends - and an incredible recipe for Welsh cakes!



Foreword by
ITV's Dr Hilary Jones

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Foreword by
Pete Waterman



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♈ ARIES MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You aren't really in the mood to get on with what you were supposed to have been doing. That's why anything done on the spur-of-the-moment will get your vote. The moment opportunity knocks, open the door. Embrace spontaneity, it may lead to unexpected joy. A family issue could turn into a big problem unless it is nipped in the bud.

For more call **0905 789 4171**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♊ GEMINI MAY 22-JUNE 21
A message or phone call from abroad could see you either arranging to cater for visitors or making plans to travel yourself. Travel plans could become costly unless you're willing to shop around. Be open to unexpected opportunities that could enrich your journey. If you're thinking about a house move or need to find accommodation, start looking now.

For more call **0905 789 4173**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♌ LEO JULY 24-AUG 23
You're feeling as generous as ever but it might be time to start taking better care of your money. Taking part in activities with young people will be fun but also very tiring. Embrace the joy they bring, for their energy is contagious. New projects may not be going as well as hoped but persistence will get results. Prioritise family over social plans this evening.

For more call **0905 789 4175**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♐ SAGITTARIUS NOV 23-DEC 21
Be cautious in conversations and don't believe all you hear. A friend will share their views but their opinion isn't reliable. They may not have all the facts and listening to them could lead you astray. Be mindful not to let your feelings interfere with your judgment. Refrain from passing on any gossip. Trust your instincts, they're your most reliable guide.

For more call **0905 789 4179**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♉ TAURUS APRIL 21-MAY 21
In both your personal and professional life you won't be satisfied with the status quo. You sense a change could improve situations. Embrace the possibility of these transformations, as they could lead to newfound opportunities. Your love life may not be perfect but handling disagreements diplomatically will help keep the peace.

For more call **0905 789 4172**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♋ CANCER JUNE 22-JULY 23
When discussing joint financial and legal matters, you can't overstress how important it is for both you and your partner to monitor developments. You feel good about the way things are going, but if you let your guard down, even for a second, it could lead to an annoying outcome. Trust your instincts and don't hesitate to voice any concerns.

For more call **0905 789 4174**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♍ VIRGO AUG 24-SEPT 23
The stronger your determination to achieve a goal, the higher your chances of success. If you give up at the first sign of trouble, you aren't likely to get to the place you want to be. Persevere, and by this evening you will start seeing results. Every step forward is a testament to your unwavering spirit. Trust in your journey and the rewards will come.

For more call **0905 789 4176**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♑ CAPRICORN DEC 22-JAN 20
You're feeling more sociable now that you've managed to get some responsibilities out of the way. You're more content with where you are going, more confident in your abilities and more focused on your aims. Very soon you will be ending some old commitments in order to make room for new ones to begin. Embrace this flourishing sense of freedom.

For more call **0905 789 4180**
(80p/min + network access charge)



ELIJAH WOOD
Born on this day, 1981

♎ LIBRA SEPT 24-OCT 23
In your closest relationships, you should trust your gut feelings. Resolving misunderstandings will be easier when you try to see things from another person's point of view. You may not always agree but understanding their feelings will bring clarity. A heart to heart chat will be beneficial, allowing deeper connections to flourish.

For more call **0905 789 4177**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♒ AQUARIUS JAN 21-FEB 19
That optimistic feeling that was with you at the start of the day will be heightened by some good news received later. An offer or opportunity that comes your way will be unexpected. Even so, grab it while you can. If you hesitate, someone else will get in before you. Trust your instincts, for they will guide you towards a rewarding path ahead.

For more call **0905 789 4181**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♏ SCORPIO OCT 24-NOV 22
Routine matters will be dealt with swiftly and this will leave you with time to spare. A trip out during the middle of the day could feel therapeutic. Your relationship with an older relative or neighbour is improving. A recent conflict is now water under the bridge, allowing for a renewed sense of connection and understanding that brightens your day.

For more call **0905 789 4178**
(80p/min + network access charge)

♓ PISCES FEB 20-MARCH 20
You feel caught between your work and social obligations and your private concerns. The morning will be the best time to handle business involving other people. Get this over with while you can and then later in the day, there will be more opportunity to focus on personal and family matters. Embrace these quieter moments, they can reveal hidden joys.

For more call **0905 789 4182**
(80p/min + network access charge)

Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge - maximum of 5 minutes duration. You must be over 18 and have the bill payer's permission. Service provider Spoke. Helpline 0333 202 3390

NUTWOOD TALES

RUPERT AND THE PENGUINS No.25



Thinks Rupert, "He will be so glad To hear what splendid luck I've had."



He tells his news, "King Penguin's seen Three royal names, two kings, one queen!"

Rupert hurries to the explorer's shack. "He should be pleased to hear about the kingfisher and the queen bee and that I've found three out of the four royal names," Rupert tells himself. When Rupert bursts into the hut, Captain Chubb is sitting reading a book. He glances up as Rupert starts, "I say, I have been lucky so far," then tells him what has happened. "We only have to find one more and King Penguin will come out of his cave."



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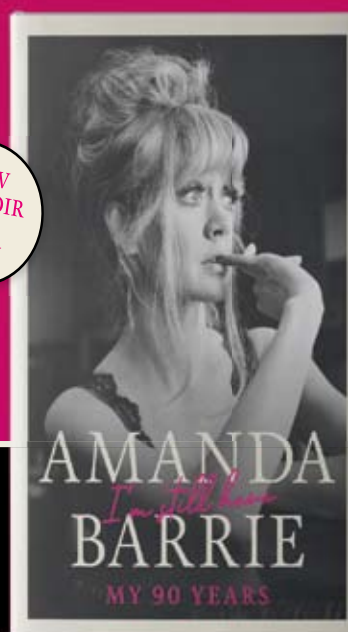
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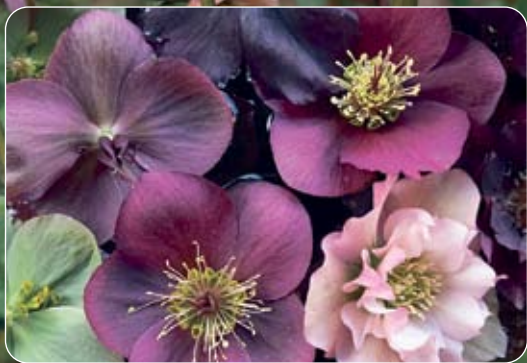
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Perfect for novice and experienced gardeners, they brighten winter with charm and resilience.

- ✓ Plant type: Perennial
- ✓ Flowering period: January - May
- ✓ Position: Part sun / part shade / full shade
- ✓ Height / Spread in maturity: 50cm/50cm
- ✓ Temperatures: Fully hardy down to -20°C
- ✓ Good for: Pots, containers, pollinators

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Sex, Drugs and Walking Sticks

by Dr Miriam Stoppard



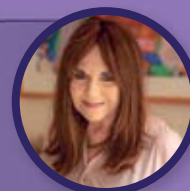
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Dr Miriam
Stoppard





AT A GLANCE

STOCK MARKET			
FTSE 100	10207.8	▲	+58.9
FTSE 250	23404.0	▲	+52.4
FTSE ALL SHARE	5508.0	▲	+29.5
Shares Traded	14102.3 million		

POPULAR SHARES ON THE RISE			
Abrdn	219½	+1	
AstraZeneca	13880	+128	
Aviva	626	+1¼	
BAE Systems	2012	+39	
Barclays	489¼	+9	
BP	452	+7¼	
BT Group	187	+4¼	
Centrica	187½	+3	
GSK	1862½	+34	
HSBC Holdings	1277¼	+35	
Int Consolidated Airlines	416½	+2¼	
Lloyds Banking Group	105¼	+2¼	
Marks & Spencer Group	365¼	+1¼	
National Grid	1222½	+18½	
NatWest Group	667½	+17¼	
Rolls-Royce Holdings	1240	+4½	
Saga	426½	+21½	
Sainsbury (J)	317½	+1	
Shell	2697	+24½	
Tesco	420	+3½	
Unilever	4864½	+3	
Vodafone Group	105½	+1	
Whitbread	2780	+4	

POPULAR SHARES ON THE SLIDE			
Convatec Group	233	-3½	
Haleon	376½	-½	

WORLD MARKETS			
WALL STREET	49003.4	▼	-408.9
TOKYO	53333.5	▲	+448.3
HONG KONG	27127.0	▲	+361.4
GERMANY	24894.4	▼	-38.6
FRANCE	8152.8	▲	+21.7

STERLING VALUE			
Dollar	1.378	▲	+0.010
Yen	210.591	▲	-0.374
Euro	1.151	▼	-0.001

DOLLAR VALUE			
Dollar/Yen	152.790	▼	-1.4339
Dollar/Euro	0.835	▼	-0.0070

COMMODITIES			
GOLD(\$)		▼	5097.10
KRUGERRAND(£)		▼	3703.37
SILVER(pence)		▼	7914.45
BRENT CRUDE(\$)		▲	66.00

OTHER INDICATORS			
Base rate			3.75%
Halifax mortgage rate			5.95%
Retail Price Index			+4.2% (CPI +3.4%)
House price Index			+2.5%
Unemployment			1,840,000



TOURIST'S POUND

Australia	1.93 dollar
Canada	1.83 dollar
China	8.93 renminbi
Czech Rep.	26.24 koruna
Denmark	8.17 krone
Eurozone	1.13 euro
Hong Kong	10.03 dollar
Hungary	412.65 forint
Israel	4.00 shekel
Japan	202.97 yen
Jordan	0.91 dinar
Mexico	22.44 peso
New Zealand	2.23 dollar
Norway	12.91 krone
Poland	4.61 zloty
Saudi Arabia	4.89 riyal
South Africa	21.04 rand
Sweden	11.64 krona
Switzerland	1.03 franc
Thailand	40.82 baht
Turkey	55.20 lira
United States	1.35 dollar

Booming banks save FTSE as miners in hole lot of woe

By **SAMUEL NORMAN**

SHARES in Britain's banking giants helped lift the FTSE 100 out of the red yesterday morning as blue-chip lenders rallied ahead of earnings season.

HSBC topped the index's risers with a gain of nearly 3% to 1,278.20p – an all-time high for Europe's largest lender. The rally came after Citigroup raised its target price, pointing to soaring wealth fees.

The gains took HSBC's market cap to £219.7billion by mid-day trading, making it the first European bank to cross the milestone. It also eclipsed AstraZeneca at £213.76bn, making the bank the City's most valuable firm.

Meanwhile, its banking peers were enjoying the pre-earnings rally, with Natwest advancing over 2% to a post-financial crisis high of 665.60p. Lloyds was up just under 2% to 104.75p and Barclays 1.7% to 489.20p.

The gains helped keep the FTSE 100 above water, with the City's blue-chip index up 0.5% to 10,203.97p.

"Were it not for HSBC's gains, the index would have been struggling to make any headway at all, despite yet more gains for gold and silver," said Chris Beauchamp, chief market analyst at IG. Early losses across the mining sector

– which rivalled the banks as the market's top industry last year – took their toll on the index. Fresnillo, the top performing blue-chip last year, tumbled nearly 3% in early trading, despite further gains in gold. Its peer Antofagasta was behind at a 1.5% slump.

This came even as gold's rally stormed onwards, breaking through the \$5,100 mark for the first time.

Silver was up nearly 8% – also at an all-time high.

"Despite a good session overnight for Asia, where investors essentially ignored Donald Trump's fresh tariffs on South Korea, markets are conscious of Wednesday's busy data docket, covering US tech earnings and a Fed decision," Beauchamp said.

"As a result, it seems risk-on appetite will be contained."

Britain's banking giants kick off full-year earnings season tomorrow, with the country's largest mortgage lender Lloyds first to go under the microscope.

Barclays will follow on February 10, before Natwest on February 13 and HSBC on February 25.



HSBC's value has now hit £219.7bn

DR MARTENS FAILS TO SHINE AGAIN



Troubled footwear firm remains under pressure as it tries to 'pivot'

SHARES in Dr Martens slumped 13% early yesterday, after the troubled firm reported a drop in sales over the "golden quarter", amid investor concern at its ongoing strategic "pivot".

Revenue at the bootmaker fell 2.7% to £253m in the three months to the end of December, with weak performance in the Europe, Middle East and Africa regions, as well as Asia-Pacific.

The firm expects revenue to be flat across the 2026 financial year. Chief executive Ije Nwokorie said: "This is a year of pivot." Its turnaround plan includes reducing discounting, targeting new markets, and promoting new products, such as bags and sandals. Shares are trading around 66p, down from a recent peak of 99p.

Richest financier's firm in final appeal over tax

BLUECREST Capital Management, set up by the UK's richest financier Michael Platt, appeals today over the investment manager's tax battle with HMRC.

The case centres on the salaried members' rules, which determine whether limited liability partnership members are truly self-employed or are actually

"disguised employees" for tax purposes. HMRC issued determinations for the tax years 2014-15 to 2018-19, claiming that nearly all BlueCrest members were salaried.

It is seeking income tax and national insurance and BlueCrest stands to lose nearly £200million if it loses. Mr Platt,

who ran the group in those years, was worth £11.5billion in 2023, the Sunday Times Rich List estimated.

The case has worked its way through the court system for several years and is now set for a two-day final appeal from today in the Supreme Court, where the Lord Justices will rule.



Billionaire Michael Platt

++ THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 THE FTSE 100 ++

52 WEEK					52 WEEK					52 WEEK				
COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW	COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	HIGH	LOW
3i Group	3135	+6	4459	2999	Games Workshop	17680#	-210	19840	12410	M&G	307½	+1	310½	172¼
A.B. Foods	1903½	+22	2337	1838	GlaxoSmithKline	1862½	+34	1901½	1264	Marks & Spencer	365¼	+1¼	411¼	318½
Admiral Group	1262	-4	1324	1050	Glencore	503¼	+3¼	503¼	230	Melrose	642	+8½	680	386
Airtel Africa	360½	+3½	372¼	129¼	Haleon	376½	-½	415¼	326½	Mondi	887	-4	1326	819
Alliance Trust	1262	-4	1324	1050	Halma	3654#	+14	3710	2360	National Grid	1222½	+18½	1224	919¼
Anglo American	3449	+1	3475	2003¼	Hikma	1545	-23	2340	1507	NatWest Group	667½	+17¼	670¼	411¼
Antofagasta	3756	-19	3775	1383	Hiscox	1528	+10	1536	1035	Next	13555	+115	14580	9336
Ashtead Group	5034#	-64	5594	3659	HSBC Holdings	1277¼	+35	1283½	713¼	Pearson	941¼	-21½	1379	929¼
AstraZeneca	13880	+128	14346	9667	IMI	2714	-18	2752	1606	Pershing Square Hold.	4548	-98	5090	3244
Auto Trader	548¼	-¼	908½	548½	Imperial Brands	3021	+10	3312	2662	Persimmon	1423	+10	1429	1037½
Aviva	626	+1¼	692	493	Informa	893¼	-14¼	993¼	640¼	Phoenix Group	733½	+10½	748½	499¼
Babcock International	1494	+40	1502	518	InterContinental Htl.	9879½	-3635½	10075¼	5393	Prudential	1181	+15	1197	655
BAE Systems	2012	+39	2093	1180½	Intermediate Cap.Grp	1873	-14	2450	1569	Reckitt Benckiser	5962	+8	6228	4633
Barclays	489¼	+9	491½	241¼	Intertek Group	4482	-54	5385	4064	RELX	2720	-147	4135	2720
Barratt Development	388	+3¼	482¼	350	Intl Consolidated Airlines	416½	+2¼	437	224½	Rentokil Initial	477¼	+5¼	480¼	309½
Beazley Group	1134	-6	1170	769	JD Sports	84½	+3	104½	63¼	Rightmove	507½	+4¼	823¼	494½
Berkeley Grp Hldgs	4074	+36	4324	3524	Kingfisher	331½	+8	333¼	238½	Rio Tinto	6728	+52	6737	4117
BP	452	+7¼	476¼	331¼	Land Securities	648	+3	654	499½	Rolls-Royce Group	1240	+4½	1305	582¼
British Amer.Tob	4338#	+30	4421	2965	Legal & General	2603¼	+3¼	267¼	215¼	Sage Group	989¼#	-53½	1348	988½
British Land	410	-1½	420½	321¼	Lloyds Banking Grp	105¼	+2¼	105¼	61¼	Sainsbury (J)	317½	+1	355¼	228¼
BT Group	187	+4¼	222¼	140¼	London & Stamford Prop	200¼	+¼	204½	170½	Shell	452¼	-5¼	467	289¼
Bunzl	2018	-18	3452	1989	London Stock Ex	8258	-320	12095	8138	Scottish Mortgage	1210	+8	1215½	815¼
Burberry Group	1170	-3½	1371½	627¼						SEGR0	751½	-½	754¼	599
Centrica	187½	+3	187½	132¼						Severn Trent	2901	+46	2907	2370
Coca-Cola HBC	3912	+8	4034	2788						Shell	2697	+24½	2931½	2291½
Compass Group	2181#	-43	2843	2181						Smith & Nephew	1243	+8½	1435	937¼
Convatec Group	233	-3½	295½	221¼						Smiths Group	2616	-22	2648	1687
CRH	8956	-26	9704	6142						Smurfit Kappa	3143	-68	4454	2558
Croda International	2779	-10	3383	2465						Spirax-Sarco	7390	+175	8190	5445
DCC	4580	+26	5600	4350						SSE	2397#	+41	2397	1463½
Diageo	1609½	-45½	2495	1577						St James's Place	1497½	+38	1515½	791
Diploma	5490#	-40	5685	3624						Standard Chartered	1854	+20½	1878½	878¼
EasyJet	4703¼	-5½	587¼	427½						Tesco	420	+3¼	475½	314½
Entain	648½	-19½	1022	501¼						Unilever	4864½	+3	6177½	4631
Experian Group	2785#	-147	4088	2781½						United Utilities	1233#	+18½	1242	944½
F&C Inv Tst	1245#		1272	962						Vodafone Group	105½#	+1	105¼	64
Flutter Entert	12405	-315	23630	12195						Weir Group	3276	+48	3282	1984
Fresnillo	4140	-308	4448	657						Whitbread	2780	+4	3274	2335



Osborne nets tidy wallpaper reward

GEORGE Osborne's family received nearly £1million in payments from a wallpaper firm that has continued to file losses, official accounts show.

The ex-Chancellor is slated to have made up to £877,000 alongside his parents and a finance officer working at family-owned Osborne & Little.

Despite payments to directors, the company posted a loss of £473,000 in the financial year ending in 2025.

This was around a quarter of the losses posted in the previous year.

Sales have been hit by President Trump's tariffs, putting the Osbornes' company at risk.

The amount of tax paid by the firm also plunged from £228,000 in 2024 to just £20,000 last year.

Mr Osborne's father Peter has supported the business, providing it with a cash loan worth £267,000.

+ BG + Barclays + BT + Centrica + Dixons Carphone + First Group + HSBC + Kingfisher + Marks & Spencer + Next + Prudential + Rolls-Royce + Sainsburys + Tesco + Unilever + Vodafone + Whitbread + WPP

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Aerospace & Defence				
Avon Rubber.....	1876	-42	2180	1338
Babcock International.....	1494	+40	1502	518
BAE Systems.....	2012	+39	2093	1180½
Chemring Group.....	526	+12	593	297½
QinetiQ Group.....	518½#	+5½	572	361
Rolls-Royce Group.....	1240	+4½	1305	582¼
Senior.....	253	+1	258	115¼
Alternative Energy				
Porvair.....	870	-6	900	626
Banks				
Barclays.....	489¼	+9	491½	241¼
Bco Santander.....	931	+13	943	400½
Close Brothers.....	521½	+3	550½	266½
HSBC Holdings.....	1277¼	+35	1283½	713¼
Investec.....	605	+2	607½	414
Lloyds Banking Grp.....	105¼	+2¼	105¼	61¼
Metro Bank.....	134½	+4½	134½	81
NatWest Group.....	667½	+17¼	670¼	411¼
Paragon Group.....	880	-15½	970	686½
Standard Chartered.....	1854	+20½	1878½	878¼
Beverages				
Barr (AG).....	637	+2	711	583
Coca-Cola HBC.....	3912	+8	4034	2788
Diageo.....	1609½	-45½	2495	1577
Chemicals				
Carclco.....	56	-2	80	21
Croda International.....	2779	-10	3383	2465
Elementis.....	165½	-2½	176½	115
Johnson Matthey.....	2368#	-20	2398	1156
Synthomer.....	54	-3¼	158¼	46
Trealt.....	211	+1	444	186½
Victrex.....	743	+3	1048	589
Construction & Materials				
Balfour Beatty.....	722½	+4½	735	390½
Costain Group.....	178¼	+5½	178¼	94
CRH.....	8956	-26	9704	6142
Dialight.....	300	-5	364	91¼
Galliford Try.....	537	+2	546	321
Gleeson (MJ).....	396		538	320
Keller Group.....	1754	+12	1760	1240
Kier Group.....	223	+½	231½	115¼
Marshalls.....	158¼	-2½	293	158¼
Morgan Sindall.....	4960	+45	4985	2945
Severfield-Rowen.....	28¼		52¼	19
Smart (J) & Co.....	132½#		132½	110
Electricity				
Drax Group.....	918	+24½	918	536½
SSE.....	2397#	+41	2397	1463½
Telecom Plus.....	1358		2085	1326
Electronic & Electrical Equipment				
Acal.....	621	+6	738	486
Halma.....	3654#	+14	3710	2360
Oxford Instruments.....	2515	-10	2535	1500
Renishaw.....	3740	-10	3875	2145
TT Electronics.....	109½	+¼	154	73
XP Power.....	1260	+64	1306	621
Equity Investment Instruments				
Aberdeen Asian Sml.....	383	+4	384	256
Aberforth Sml.Co.....	1680	+14	1682	1212
Acorn Income.....				
Albion Tech & Gen. VCT.....	66		71	65½
Alliance Trust.....	1262	-4	1324	1050
Aurora Inv.Tst.....	275	-1	279	212½
AVI Global Tst.....	263½	-½	266½	202
Baillie Gifford Japan.....	910	-1	951	657
Baillie Gifford Shin Nip.....	137	-1	138½	95½
Bankers Inv.Tst.....	132¼#	+½	136	101
Baronsmead VCT.2.....	48½		52	46½
BH Macro GBP.....	412½	-1½	416	371½
Biotech Growth Trust.....	1270	+15	1285	620
BlackRock Mining.....	1012	-10	1030	406½
Bluehone AIM VCT2.....			31	28¼
British Assets Tst.....	27¼	+¼	49¼	26¼
Brunner Inv.Tst.....	1460	+10	1498	1140
Caledonia Inv.....	376	+2	391½	334½
City Natural Res.Yld.....	426	-9	436¼	165¼
City Of London.....	547#	+5	549	411½
Dunedin Ent.Lt.....				
Dunedin Income.....	308	-1	312	262
Edin Wwide Inv.....	226	+2½	229½	143
Edin.Inv.Tst.....	810	-2	839	680
Edin.US Tracker.....	377#	-2½	386½	289½
Elderstreet VCT.....	38¼		41	36½
F&C Cap&Inc.....	352	+2	354	287

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
F&C Inv Tst.....	1245#		1272	962
F&C Smaller Cos.....	182½#	-½	184¼	136½
F&C US Smaller Companies.....	1400		1480	1115
Fidelity Asian.....	622	+4	628	454
Fidelity European.....	433½	+5½	434	338½
Fidelity Special.....	433	+2	436½	295½
Finsbury Gwth&In.....	788	-17	962	786
Foresight Tech.VCT.....	65½		75½	62
Genesis E.M.F.....	1196	+26	1198	632
Graphite Ent.....	1546	+24	1600	1070
Hansa Tst 'A'.....	273	-3	276	190
Hansa Tst Plc.....	274	+2	278	192½
Henderson Far Est.....	255½	+2½	256½	190½
Henderson High Inc.....	195½#	-¼	197½	151
Herald Inv.Tst.....	2595	-5	2640	1738
HGC Capital Tst.....	507	+5	538	448
HSBC Infrastructure.....	117½	+¾	125¼	106
Impax Env.Mkt.....	418		431	310½
Int.Biotech.Tst.....	954	-4	996	480
International Public.....	127½	-¼	130	107¼
Invesco Asia.....	437	+3	447	300
Invesco Perp UK.....	388	-2	394	313½
JPM American.....	1118	+4	1178	869
JPM Asian.....	490#	+7½	490	331½
JPM Claverhouse.....	878	+2	888	660
JPM Emerg Mkt.....	145¼#	+2	145¼	95
JPM Euro Sml Co.....	630#	+10	630	444½
JPM Global Emerging.....	184½	+2½	186½	118½
JPM Indian.....	950	+1	1106	904
JPM Japanese.....	744#	+2	759	493
JPM Overseas IT.....	579		609	480
JPM Smaller Co.....	342½	+½	343¼	253
JPM US Sml Co.....	411	-1	514	338
Jupiter Euro.....	940	+4	959	757
JZ Capital Partners.....	185		220	184
Law Debenture.....	1136	+12	1136	788
Lowland Invest Co.....	170#	+2¼	170½	114½
Majedie Inv.....	280	+4	280	230
Manchester&Lon.....	788	+1	944	512
Martin Currie Prtfo Tst.....	354#	+4	382	295
Maven Income And Growth VCT 34½			38	33½
Mercantile Inv Tst.....	267½#	+1	268½	202½
Merchants Tst.....	626	+7	626	474
Mid Wynd Int.....	778	-2	836	664
Monks Inv.Tst.....	1530	+4	1554	1036
Montanaro Euro Tst.....	170		183½	138
Montanaro UK.....	105½#		106½	87¼
Murray Inc.Tst.....	932		938	754
Murray Int.Tst.....	334½#	+1½	335	239
New India.....	704	-4	832	686
New Star Inv.Tst.....	129½		131	100
North Atl.Smlr.Tst.....				
Northern 2 VCT.....	53½		57	52½
Northern Venture.....	56½		58½	55½
Oxford Tech 2 VCT.....	6½		7	4½
Pacific Assets.....	371	+1	378	302
Pacific Horizon.....	882	+15	882	507
Pantheon Int.....	383½	-3	390	266
Pershing Square Hold.....	4548	-98	5090	3244
Polar Cap.Tech.....	497	+5½	498½	255½
RCM Technology Trust.....	553	-10	553	307
RIT Capital Partners.....	2200	-10	2275	1722
Ruffer Investment.....	302	-2	308	272½
Schroder Asia.....	700#	+8	702	461½
Schroder Inc.....	354#		354¼	255
Schroder Japan.....	325#	-1	334	209
Schroder UK.....	208	-1	211	158½
Schroder UK M&S.....	750		750	520
Scottish American.....	522	+1	525	454½
Scottish Mortgage.....	1210	+8	1215½	815¼
Shires Inc.....	320#	+2½	320	222
Small Comp Div.Tst.....	137½	+½	150½	124
Standard Life Equity.....	421	+2	422	288½
Standard Life UK Sml.....	522		531	426
Temple Bar.....	381½	+1½	386½	258
Templeton Emrg.....	261#	+4	261¼	151¼
The European Inv.Tst.....	110½#	+½	111½	84
Throgmorton Tst.....	660	+3	660	469
TR Euro.Growth.....	229½	+2½	229½	163
TR Prop. IT.....	329	+3	338½	277½
Witan Pacific.....	315	+1	322	223
Wwide Healthcare.....	371½	-1½	397	265½
Financial Services				
3i Group.....	3135	+6	4459	2999
3i Infrastructure.....	375	+1½	385	301
Abdrn.....	219½	+1	225¼	123¼
Ashmore Group.....	240	+2½	242¼	125
Guinness Peat Group.....	86¼	+1	96	68¼

SHARES AT A GLANCE

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
IG Group.....	1364	+5	1370	913
Intermediate Cap.Grp.....	1873	-14	2450	1569
International Pers Fin.....	236		237	121½
IP Group.....	59½	+2	65	34¼
Jupiter Fund Man.....	188½	+1¼	189¼	68
Liontrust Asset Man.....	243	-2½	458	231½
London Stock Ex.....	8258	-320	12095	8138
M&G.....	307½	+1	310½	172¼
Man Group.....	258¼	-1¼	271¼	154¼
Provident Financial.....	118¼	+1½	128½	49½
Rathbone Brothers.....	2210	+5	2220	1406
S & U.....	2340	-10	2360	1330
Schroders.....	452¼	-5¼	467	289¼
St James's Place.....	1497½	+38	1515½	791
Tullett Prebon.....	256	-1	311½	228
Walker Crips Group.....	13½		14	7½
Fixed Line Telecommunications				
Airtel Africa.....	360½	+3½	372¼	129¼
BT Group.....	187#	+4¼	222¼	140¼
Food & Drug Retailers				
Greggs.....	1633	-32	2182	1418

COMPANY	CLOSE	+/-	52 WEEK HIGH	LOW
Kingfisher.....	331½	+8	333¼	238½
Next.....	13555	+115	14580	9336
Pets At Home.....	200½	-3¼	273¼	192¼
RM Group.....	110		117	82
Topps Tiles.....	43#	+1½	50	29
WH Smith.....	680#		1307	613½
Health Care Equipment & Services				
Convatec Group.....	233	-3½	295½	221¼
Flying Brands.....			1¼	+½
Smith & Nephew.....	1243	+8½	1435	937¼
Household Goods & Home Construction				
Barratt Development.....	388	+3¼	482¼	350
Bellway.....	2720	+20	2982	2166
Berkeley Grp Hldgs.....	4074	+36	4324	3524
Bovis Homes.....	666½	+17½	701	510¼
Mcbride.....	154	+8¼	159	107
Persimmon.....	1423	+10	1429	1037½
Reckitt Benckiser.....	5962	+8	6228	4633
Taylor Wimpey.....	106½	+½	123¼	93
Industrial Engineering				



Marks & Spencer.....	365¼	+1¼	411¼	318½
Ocado.....	244¼	+2½	395½	172¼
Sainsbury (J).....	317½	+1	355¼	228¼
Tesco.....	420	+3½	475½	314½
Food Producers				
A.B. Foods.....	1903½	+22	2337	1838
Anglo-Eastern.....	1475	-30	1525	638
Carr's Milling.....	138#	+1¼	157	117
Cranswick.....	5290	+140	5490	4625
Glanbia.....	1382	-69½	1451½	791
Greencore Group.....	281#	+3	282	169¼
Kerry Grp 'A' Shs.....	6484¼		8778¼	6188½
Premier Foods.....	188¼	+4¼	214½	167
REA Holdings.....	130		133	61½
Tate & Lyle.....	377¼	-1¼	661	358
Gas, Water & Multiutilities				
Centrica.....	187½	+3	187½	132¼
National Grid.....	1222½	+18½	1224	919¼
Pennon Group.....	557	+8	557	387½
Severn Trent.....	2901	+46	2907	2370
United Utilities.....	1233#	+18½	1242	944½
General Industrials				
Bunzl.....	2018	-18	3452	1989
Goodwin.....	26100	+400	26600	6180
Melrose.....	642	+8½	680	386
Mondi.....	887	-4	1326	819
Smiths Group.....	2616	-22	2648	1687
Smurfit Kappa.....	3143	-68	4454	2558
General Retailers				
ASOS.....	326½	-½	436½	218½
Auto Trader.....	548¼	-¼	908½	548½
B&M Europ Value Ret.....	170¼	+1¼	344½	155¼
Caffyns.....	415		500	415
Dixons Carphone.....	147¼#	+2¼	147¼	85¼
Dunelm.....	942½	-4½	1232	858½
Fraser's Group.....	695	+8½	770	546
Halfords Group.....	148½	+1¼	174½	116¼
Headlam Group.....	45	+1¼	134	43¼
Howden Joinery.....	839½	-6	914½	679½
Inchcape.....	813½	+12	820	638
JD Sports.....	84½	+¼	104½	63¼

Bodycote	757	-2	772	460½
Hill & Smith	2275	-5	2360	1530
IMI	2714	-18	2752	1606
Morgan Crucible.....	232½	-3½	274	177½
Northgate	376		395	273½
Rotork	353½	+4	354	275¼
Spirax-Sarco	7390	+175	8190	544½
Vesuvius	472¼	+4¼	479	313¼
Weir Group	3276	+48	3282	1984
Xaar.....	108	-4	145	59
Industrial Metals & Mining				
Castings.....	278	+2	319	234
Evraz				
Ferrexpo	78¼	+¼	110¼	44½
Industrial Transportation				
Braemar Shipping Serv.....	217	-3	275	20½
Clarkson	4110	+10	4505	299½
FirstGroup	183¼	-3	233	146½
Fisher (J) & Sons	391	+10	403	28½
Leisure Goods				
Games Workshop.....	17680#	-210	19840	1241½
Photo-Me Intl.....	138¼	+¼	230	13½
Life Insurance				
Aviva.....	626	+1¼	692½	49½
Chesnara.....	306	+4	306½	212½
Legal & General.....	260¼	+3¼	267¼	215½
Phoenix Group	733½	+10½	748½	499½
Prudential.....	1181	+15	1197	65½
Media				
4imprint Group.....	4215	-50	6030	303½
Bloomsbury Publish.....	501	-2	666	46½
Future.....	547½#	+15½	1029	492½
Informa.....	893¼	-14¼	993½	640½
ITV	82¼	+¾	87¼	66½
Pearson	941¼	-21½	1379	929½
Reach	64	+3½	88¼	5
STV Group	112	-½	202	10½
Wilmington Group.....	302	+10	387	28½
WPP Group	310¼	-11	787¼	26½
Mining				
Anglo American	3449	+1	3475	2003½

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This high-backed recliner is

“My new chair is perfect for my small frame and fits well in my living room. The high back is very comfortable. The vibration and heating features are great. The price is great too as I paid double for the chair this one is replacing.”

★★★★★
Joyce C

constructed from a solid, hard wooden frame and upholstered in bonded leather for durability and style. With a compact footprint and clean finish, it's ideal for both modern and traditional interiors. The chair supports up to 130kg, offering

strong and stable seating in a refined profile that doesn't overwhelm the room.

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Massage points are built into the seat, lower, and upper back, helping relieve common aches and stiffness. A gentle warming function in the lumbar region adds soothing comfort, particularly appreciated in colder weather or at the end of a busy day. The Corcoran delivers more than just a seat, it's a sanctuary of calm.

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From setup to sit-down, the Corcoran is hassle-free. It's

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- ✓ Electrically operated rise and recline
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- ✓ Massage points in the seat, lower and upper back
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FULL BODY RESISTANCE TRAINING

The dual-resistance system keeps muscles engaged throughout every movement, including regular and reverse

crunches. The twisting seat targets obliques and lower abs, while the ergonomic back design and integrated resistance bands let you tone your abs, chest, shoulders, back, arms, glutes and legs. This makes Wonder Core 2 a true total body solution for strength and conditioning.

CARDIO AND CONDITIONING

The exclusive rowing system adds a cardio element to your routine, allowing you to increase stamina, burn calories and strengthen your muscles at the same time. Rowing motions complement resistance exercises for efficient, effective workouts that can be done in any room of the home.

DURABLE AND COMPACT

Built from gym-quality steel,

Wonder Core 2 provides a stable and safe platform for exercise. Its foldable design allows for easy storage, making it practical for home use without taking up space.

STRUCTURED WORKOUTS

Included bonus workouts guide your session to ensure you engage every muscle group effectively, helping you strengthen, tone and improve overall fitness. There's also an included workout DVD.

By combining rowing and resistance training in one compact machine, Wonder Core 2 offers a versatile, all-in-one solution for total body strength, cardio and conditioning, giving you a complete workout at home with efficiency, safety and comfort.

- ✓ Great for cardio and strength training
- ✓ Perfect for all fitness levels
- ✓ Provides full body workout with 12-in-1 muscle-toning system
- ✓ Folds away for easy storage
- ✓ Built to last with durable, gym quality steel
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Racing

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DUBLIN UNDER WATER

By Melissa Jones

SATURATED Leopardstown faces a race against time to be fit to stage the hugely valuable Dublin Racing Festival at the weekend.

The track was unraceable yesterday after 58mm of rain fell in the last 24 hours, as Storm Chandra wreaked havoc on Britain and Ireland.

It brought the total amount at the Grade One circuit to more than six inches in the past 12 days – and swift progress will have to be made for the two-day meeting to get the green light.

“The ground is waterlogged and unraceable,” clerk of the course Paddy Graffin, right, said yesterday. “We just have to hope the situation improves.”

Pictures show how a lake has developed on the landing side of one of the fences in the back straight, across from the grandstand.

Major flooding was reported across Dublin, with some roads turning to rivers, after a nationwide yellow weather warning was issued.



But organisers remain hopeful

Thursday and Friday are due to be mainly dry ahead of the eight top level contests – and 15 overall – on Saturday and Sunday.

“In the last 12 days it has been torrential,” Leopardstown’s new chief executive Mark Clayton said. “We have no contingencies planned as the forecast gives us complete optimism we will race.”

Willie Mullins, winner of 54 contests with his horses during eight years of the DRF, traditionally uses the £1.7million fixture to finalise his Cheltenham Festival squad.

If the meeting goes ahead, dual Cheltenham Gold Cup hero Galopin Des Champs is set to go off a hot favourite for the Grade One Paddy Power Irish Gold Cup on Saturday.



WATER WORLD

Leopardstown team hope the Dublin Festival will still go ahead despite heavy rain

Para looks a real Kempton trooper

PARADIAS (8.30, Nap) can keep punters happy in the Try Unibet’s New Smartview Racecards Handicap at Kempton Park.

Alan King’s trainee won the 1m 3f race last year, holding on bravely from Gaassee and Dream Harder in a finish of heads.

On his return from a 226-day break on Boxing Day, my selection ran really well off the same mark of 99, pressing Brasil Power all the way to Wolverhampton’s winning line with the pair a couple of lengths clear.

Off just 11lb higher, this consistent sort has every chance of retaining his title, with jockey Rossa Ryan taking his first rides of 2026 at the

By **The Scout** (Melissa Jones)

track. If able to find a good position behind the pace-setting Pinjarra, **SOUTHBANK (5.30, nb)** should go close in the Unibet More Extra Place Races Amateur Jockeys’ Handicap.

The Acclamation gelding’s last two races have not worked out tactically, but his handler Chris Gordon, left, has already found the key to him over course and distance. After bumping into a couple of useful prospects, **SEEING STARS (7.30, trb)** is tipped to get off the mark in the Every Race Live On Racing TV Restricted Maiden Fillies’ Stakes.



5.30 UNIBET AMATEUR JOCKEYS' HANDICAP £2,980 (Class 6) 6f (10 declared)

1 (2) 41406L- BIG BARD (41) (C&D) G & J Moore 8 11-2	46
2 (7) 82342-4 PORTORO (24) (C) Martin Dunne 6 11-1	48
3 (8) 111-746 UP THE ANTI (11) (C&D) A Carroll 4 11-0	49
4 (5) 13712-5 PINJARRA (11) (D) (T) J & S Quinn 5 10-12	48
5 (5) 5614-42 ● SOUTHBANK (11) (C&D, S) C Gordon 5 10-12	48
6 (1) 5L9L-LL GRISLEDA (11) (D) Miss H Knight 4 10-11	43
7 (6) 253L9-L MAN ON A MISSION (17) (C&D) P & J Clutterbuck 7 10-11	45
8 (3) 5668-46 RUMBA BAY (4) (D) P Evans 4 10-9	45
9 (10) 74L3L8- DARK SORCERESS (86) (D) C Hobson 4 10-6	47
10 (4) 24950-5 THE COLA BRASIL (14) (D) D Wingrove 10 10-5	42
BLINKERS: No. 4 TONGUE STRAP : Nos. 2, 7 CHEEK PIECES : Nos. 1, 6, 10	
HOOD: No. 2.	

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Portoro, 10-3 Southbank, 7-2 Pinjarra, 8 Up The Anti, 10 Rumba Bay, 14 Big Bard, Dark Sorceress, 16 Grisleda, 25 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

6.00 UNIBET 3 UNIBOOSTS A DAY H'CAP 3YO £3,140 (6) 1m (8)

1 (3) 51-2 ROSERUNNER (22) (D) M Botti 9-9	69
2 (6) 1723- WIND SUMMER (28) (D) Mohammed 9-9	72
3 (5) 14542- ● EBN SALT (95) (F) W Muir & C Grassick 9-9	67
4 (2) 873L26- HAMALEEL (116) A Watson 9-7	67
5 (8) 165-1 ANEIRIN'S SWORD (26) (D,S) J Osborne 9-5	69
6 (1) 76L- QUICK TURN (177) (F) Williams 9-4	67
7 (7) 9487- FANS FAVOURITE (39) (H) Palmer 9-3	67
8 (4) 10L-5 MUSICAL SOLDIER (21) Ollie Sangster 9-0	69
9 (1) 10L-5 MUSICAL SOLDIER (21) Ollie Sangster 9-0	69
10 (4) 10L-5 MUSICAL SOLDIER (21) Ollie Sangster 9-0	69
BLINKERS: No. 7 TONGUE STRAP : No. 8 CHEEK PIECES : Nos. 3, 4	
HOOD: No. 1	

SP FORECAST: 5-2 Aneirin's Sword, 3 Roserunner, 7-2 Ebn Salt, 9-2 Wind Summer, 10 Musical Soldier, 14 Hamaleel, 16 Quick Turn.

2025: The Outlaw 9-9, Hector Crouch 4-5 Fav (R Beckett), drawn (8), 7 ran.

6.30 UNIBET LIVE STREAMED EVENTS H'CAP £3,140 (6) 1m (10)

1 (2) 215-631 RISING FORCE (7) (D,S) Darryll Holland 5 9-13(Sex)	63
2 (7) 66134-7 BERNING HOT (14) M Attwater 4 9-9	66
3 (8) 13378-3 MBAPPE (9) (C,D) M Loughnane 5 9-8	70
4 (8) 4/61L4-5 ● GRAND CITADEL (14) M Fenton (IRE) 5 9-5	69
5 (1) 58207-1 LADY KAMEKO (11) S Pearson 4 9-5	72
6 (6) 2461-9 ADACE (14) (C&D) D Ivory 8 9-4	68
7 (9) 18L7-1 PAVE THE WAY (14) (C&D, F) M Rimell 4 9-0	67
8 (10) 22L87-6 GUINNESS LAD (14) N Mulholland 6 9-0	65
9 (3) 23746-4 EYE OF THE WATER (51) (D) R Harris 10 8-0	67
10 (4) 3837L-4 MARCHETTI (14) (C) J Fox 9 8-9	67
BLINKERS: No. 7 CHEEK PIECES : Nos. 6, 9 HOOD : Nos. 5, 8	
HOOD: No. 1	

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Rising Force, 3 Mbappe, 5 Pave The Way, 8 Eye Of The Water, Marchetti, 12 Guinness Lad, Grand Citadel, 25 Berning Hot, Adace, 33 Lady Kameko.

2025: No corresponding race.

CHEPSTOW: Soft-heavy in places

1.00-HIGHBURY HILL (B Carver, 4-1 2nd fav) 1; Out Of Focus (11-1) 2; Don't Tell Rosie (8-1) 3; H'cap 10 ran. 11, nk. (N Hawke; 7-2 fav Crossbeau). Tote: £5.20; pl £1.90, £3.20, £3.00, ex: £56.30. tricast: £345.57. Exacta: £497.10. CSF: £49.05. Non-runners: Atlantic Power, Getaway Sam, Gower Spirit, Luvdivio, Ocean Walz, Saccary.

1.30-THEWOODCROFT (J Bowen, 7-2 2nd fav) 1; Senator (9-2) 2; Only One Blue (12-1) 3; 7 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (N Henderson; 10-11 fav Misterdoc). Tote: £5.10; pl £2.20, £1.90, ex: £19.00. tricast: £54.90. CSF: £19.95.

2.02-WEST TO THE BRIDGE (H Skelton, 15-2) 1; Grenadier Jed (6-1) 2; French Emperor (4-1) 3; H'cap 10 ran. hd, 12L. (D Skelton; 4-1 jfav High Tea). Tote: £8.50; pl £2.30, £2.40, £2.00, ex: £53.70. tricast: £210.13. tricast: £334.80. CSF: £54.15. Non-runners: Bingleo, Walkindia.

2.37-STENCIL (J J Burke, 6-5 fav) 1; Jubly Ball (11-8 2nd fav) 2; Palacio (7-2) 3. 5 ran. 6/4, 1/4. (N George & A Zetterholm (FR).) Tote: £2.20; pl £1.10, £1.20, ex: £3.60. tricast: £5.60. CSF: £3.46.

3.12-CHARISMA CAT (T Cannon, 8-11 fav) 1; Trinity Street (9-2) 2; Clondaw Park (6-4 2nd fav) 3; 10 ran. 1/4, 3/4. (A King). Tote: £1.73; pl £1.10, £1.40, ex: £2.60. tricast: £7.90. CSF: £5.71. Non-runners: Kapabililly.

3.47-FAT FACED COLUMBO (J Best, 2-1 fav) 1;

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AND PRICES

Genietelle (7-1) 2; Bells Of Peterboro (9-1) 3; The Jan Man (6-6) 4. H'cap 16 ran. 8/4, 1/4, 25L. (R Mitford-Slade). Tote: £3.00; pl £1.20, £1.50, £2.60. tricast: £24.50. tricast: £119.32. tricast: £109.30. CSF: £17.87. Non-runner: Dangerous Trough.

4.22-KELTYPE (F Gordon, 13-2) 1; Big John Ollie (7-2) 2; Justalargewhisky (10-3 2nd fav) 3. 10 ran. 15L, 4/4. (R Curtis; 3-1 fav Westbrooke Boy). Tote: £7.50; pl £1.50, £1.50, £1.90, ex: £22.40. tricast: £69.80. CSF: £30.55. Non-runner: Graciousandplenty.

Placepot: £35.30
Quodpot: £3.30

NEWCASTLE: Heavy; AWT: standard to slow

12.45-ORESTINA (R Mania, 25-1) 1; Pure Ocean (3-1) 2; Luna Grace (6-4 fav) 3. 8 ran. 3/4, 1/4. (Paul Robson). Tote: £37.60; pl £3.70, £1.30, £1.10, ex: £141.20. tricast: £701.10. CSF: £102.22. Non-runner: Little Ruby.

1.20-LE BEAU MADRIK (T Durrell, 6-5 fav) 1; Eagles Reprieve (5-2 2nd fav) 2; Loulou Madrik (10-3) 3. 8 ran. 6/4, 2/4. (D Skelton). Tote: £2.20; pl £1.10, £1.30, £1.50. ex: £5.60. tricast: £11.30.

KEMPTON RACINGTV

THE SCOUT

5.30 SOUTHBANK (nb)	7.30 SEEING STARS
6.00 Ebn Salt	8.00 Bee My Honey
6.30 Grand Citadel	8.30 PARADIAS (nap)
7.00 Stay Salty	

7.00 UNIBET SAFER GAMBLING MAIDEN STAKES £5,400 (4) 1m (13)

1 (13) L-L LION CITY (9) C Ellum 6 10-2	44
2 (6) NAVAL TRIBUTE (J322) James Owen 5 10-2	44
3 (4) 8/5- SHAFDAR (79) I Williams 4 10-2	44
4 (7) THE UBERMENSCH M Bell 4 10-2	44
5 (10) 0/ WHERE'S THE PICNIC (534) E Smyth-Osbourne 4 9-11	44
6 (12) 95- AL AZD (118) R Varian 3 8-10	54
7 (5) 73- EMPIRICAL (32) (F) E Walker 3 8-10	54
8 (9) EXMOOR A Balding 3 8-10	54
9 (1) 9- ORO PALACIO (58) B Meehan 3 8-10	43
10 (11) PALLADAS (C) C Appleby 3 8-10	43
11 (3) ● STAY SALTY K P De Foy 3 8-10	43
12 (2) 84 TONYFROMHR (13) J Osborne 3 8-10	43
13 (8) WARM WATERS D Ivory 3 8-10	43
HOOD: No. 13.	

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Palladas, 4 Stay Salty, 5 Exmoor, 7 Naval Tribute, Empirical, 12 The Uebermensch, Shafdar, Al Azd, 25 Others.

2025: Opera Ballo 3-8-10, Billy Loughnane 4-9 Fav (C Appleby), drawn (9), 9 ran.

7.30 RACING TV RESTRICTED MAIDEN FILLIES' STKS £5,400 (4) 7f (13)

1 (5) MOLLY MARINE Jack Jones 4 9-12	43
2 (11) 0- DANCE FANTASY (40) S & E Cristford 3 8-12	43
3 (2) 7- FEISTY MINX (56) A Perrett 3 8-12	46
4 (7) 98-2 FLYTA (14) M Loughnane 3 8-12	47
5 (6) 85- THAT'S ENOUGH (29) Dr R Newland & J Insole 3 8-12	47
6 (8) 64- LA KOSMOS (28) A King 3 8-10	50
7 (12) 6- SEAPEARL (22) Oliver Cole 3 8-10	56
8 (4) 9-3 BLUE CELESTIAL (22) J Tate 3 8-8	49
9 (1) 5 COUL BRITANNIA (9) J Osborne 3 8-8	39
10 (3) 1-4 DORA VITA (29) R Phillips 3 8-8	36
11 (13) 242- GALLIEO CHARM (53) M Botti 3 8-8	64
12 (9) 2-2 ● SEEING STARS (22) (F) W Knight 3 8-8	68
13 (10) 2- SHOW ME GOLD (29) T Dascombe 3 8-8	61
HOOD: No. 1	

TONGUE STRAP: No. 4 **CHEEK PIECES**: Nos. 5, 11 **HOOD**: No. 1.

SP FORECAST: 9-4 Seeing Stars, 10-3 Gallieo Charm, 5 Show Me Gold, 6 Flyta, 12 Blue Celestial, 14 La Kosmos, Coul Britannia, 20 That's Enough, 25 Others.

2025: No corresponding race.

8.00 UNIBET'S ACCA BOOSTS FILLIES' H'CAP £4,187 (5) 7f (6)

1 (3) 9/51- SAVANNAH GREY (62) (D,F) O Sangster 4 9-9	75
2 (5) 98332-4 LADY WINGALONG (17) (D) P Evans 7 9-8	86
3 (2) 2/22- ● BEE MY HONEY (225) C Hills 4 9-8	76
4 (4) 423L24- SUMMER HEAT (97) James Owen 4 9-7	82
5 (1) 9899L-3 EXPOSAY (9) (D) D Loughnane 4 8-11	85
6 (6) 02274-9 HOLY FIRE (25) (C) C Fellowes 6 8-10	84

TONGUE STRAP: No. 1 **CHEEK PIECES**: No. 6 **EYE COVERS**: No. 5.

SP FORECAST: 2 Savannah Grey, 3 Bee My Honey, 5 Summer Heat, 6 Exposay, Lady Wingalong, 10 Holy Fire.

2025: Forever Proud 5-9-2, H Crouch 7-1 (James Owen), drawn (7), 7 ran.

8.30 UNIBET'S SMARTVIEW RACECARDS H'CAP £13,608 (2) 1m 2f 219yds (10)

1 (1) 21135-1 KING'S CODE (12) (C&D, S) P Evans 6 10-0	102
2 (4) 1/15442- ● PARADIAS (33) (C&D) A King 7 9-11	105
3 (5) 14231-3 BEYLERBEY (12) I Williams 6 9-10	103
4 (3) 213/907- SHADOW DANCE (138) (T) R Menzies 6 9-8	103
5 (10) 114513- HAKU (33) (C) M Loughnane 7 9-7	103
6 (2) 22L2L-L BRAVAIS (27) I Williams 6 9-6	106
7 (9) 311/419- THE GLEN ROVERS (86) (C&D, F) L Wadham 7 9-3	103
8 (6) 1532L-1 NIGHT BREEZE (12) (D) I Williams 6 9-0	103
9 (7) 163L4-5 WHITCOMBE ROCKSTAR (12) (C) K Burke 7 8-11	107
10 (8) 52926-6 ASSAIL (27) (C) D M Simcock 6 8-9	108
BLINKERS: Nos. 1, 10 VISOR : No. 9 TONGUE STRAP : Nos. 3, 9 HOOD : No. 3.	
SP FORECAST: 7-2 Paradias, 4 Beylerbeyi, 5 King's Code, The Glen Rovers, 8 Whitcombe Rockstar, Assail, 10 Haku, 16 Shadow Dance, Night Breeze, 33 Bravais.	
2025: Paradias 6-9-9, Tom Marquand 5-2 (A King), drawn (6), 7 ran.	

TRACK FACTS: GOING: Standard. Right Handed. TOP TRACK JOCKEY (2021-26):

Rossa Ryan 15% Strike rate. TOP TRACK TRAINER (2021-26): A Balding 16% Strike rate. FIRST TIME: 6.00 Musical Soldier (tongue strap), Fans Favourite (visor), 7.00 Warm Waters (hood), 7.30 Molly Marine (hood), That's Enough (cheek pieces), 8.00 Savannah Grey (tongue strap), 8.30 Assail (blinkers). BEATEN FAVOURITES:

5.30 Pinjarra(hcp), Portoro(hcp), 6.00 Fans Favourite, Roserunner(hcp), 7.00 Naval Tribute, 7.30 Gallieo Charm, 8.00 Bee My Honey, Summer Heat(hcp), 8.30 Shadow Dance(hcp). DRAW: No advantage. LONGEST TRAVELLER: Grand Citadel (6.30) Ireland; Shadow Dance (8.30) 274 miles. STABLE SWITCH: 7.00 Shafdar from M Delzangles in France to I Williams. 8.00 Summer Heat from S bin Suroor to James Owen. 8.30 Shadow Dance from R Varian to R Menzies.

VITAL STATISTICS

IN-FORM TRAINERS (last 10 days) J Tate 56% (2 wins and 3 places from 9 runners), A Balding 50% (5/2/14), C Appleby 50% (1/1/4), E Walker 50% (2/0/4), R Varian 50% (1/1/4).

IN-FORM JOCKEYS Jack Mitchell 100% (2 wins and 2 places from 4 runners).

GOSSY JOCKEYS FROM THE GALLOPS

South: **SOUTHBANK (5.30 Kempton)**

Lambourn: **ANEIRIN'S SWORD (6.00 Kempton)**

Newmarket: **RISING FORCE (6.30 Kempton)**

Wales: **KING'S CODE (8.30 Kempton)**

exacta: £8.70. tricast: £31.90. CSF: £12.87. Non-runner: My Genhish.

6.30-HIMSELF (A Brookes, 5-1) 1; Billy Bathgate (13-2) 2; Prince Quattro (10-3 2nd fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 1/4, 1/4. (P Kirby; 11-4 fav Slowdownbarney). Tote: £6.00; pl £2.60, £2.60. ex: £34.50. tricast: £83.00. CSF: £37.13.

7.00-LUNA BEAU (F Marsh, 5-1) 1; He Bangs The Drums (10-1) 2; Oh So Perfect (2-1 fav) 3. H'cap 9 ran. 5/4, nk. (A Wintle). Tote: £6.00; pl £2.00, £2.90, £1.20, ex: £57.30. tricast: £132.35. tricast: £206.00. CSF: £54.05.

7.30-ROSE COTTON (J Mitchell, 3-1 2nd fav) 1; Rajinoora (10-11 fav) 2; Leeson Street (13-2) 3. H'cap 6 ran. 3/4, 1/4. (Tom Cloon). Tote: £4.00; pl £1.80, £1.20, ex: £7.10. tricast: £22.20. CSF: £6.07.

8.00-ROGUE DE VEGA (C Hardie, 11-4 2nd fav) 1; Phil's Dream (12-1) 2; Spendmore Lane (14-1) 3. H'cap 8 ran. nk, 1/4. (A Brittain; 9-4 fav Son Of Asar). Tote: £3.75; pl £1.40, £3.40, £3.60, ex: £35.70. tricast: £405.76. tricast: £371.20. CSF: £36.89.

8.30-SHALAA ASKER (R Hornby, 4-1) 1; Street Life (7-2 2nd fav) 2; Amerjeet (2-1 fav) 3. H'cap 7 ran. 7/4, shd. (C Wallis). Tote: £5.00; pl £2.10, £2.00, ex: £16.10. tricast: £35.45. tricast: £31.10. CSF: £18.83. Non-runner: Global Effort.

Placepot: £30.30
Quodpot: £12.20

4.10-PARISH STAR (J Thompson, 9-2) 1; Burning It Up (5-2 fav) 2; Rock N Roll Champ (13-2) 3. H'cap 10 ran. hd, 1/4. (A Nicol). Tote: £5.80; pl £1.80, £2.00, £1.80, ex: £17.40. tricast: £75.68. tricast: £75.70. CSF: £17.44. Non-runners: Gonnino, Time Was, Velvet Vulcan.

Placepot: £339.10
Quodpot: £129.60

WOLVERHAMPTON: Standard

4.28-HOW'S THE GUNVOR (C Wood, 15-8 2nd fav

WORLD OF SPORT

It's all adding up for O'Sullivan in Berlin

BY NEIL GOULDING

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN made a triumphant return to the German Masters – and then likened himself to a mathematician.

The Rocket got all the answers right in a comfortable 5-1 first round victory over China's Long Zehuang – his first appearance at the Berlin event since 2017.

The seven-time world champion said: "Travelling can grind you down at times, so at some point you have to get more balance in your life. But

SNOOKER

I've been playing quite a bit of Chinese pool, which has been good. I've been enjoying that, it keeps your mind sharp.

"You know, it's like being a mathematician, you just want to be around numbers all the time.

"I've been working hard, but I've not been playing a lot of matches, so you haven't got that match sharpness."

Top breaks of 93, 63 and 55 did the damage for O'Sullivan, 50.



O'SULLIVAN



THE BIG PICTURE

HANDS ON: Louisville Cardinals take on the Duke Blue Devils

BRITISH-BORN Alex Astridge will become the first man from the United Arab Emirates to take to the Winter Olympic slopes next month.

The 19-year-old, who was born in Cambridge, learnt to ski inside the Mall of the Emirates – which has 600 retail outlets offering everything from Rolex watches to luxury lingerie.

It is also home to Ski Dubai, with its 85-metre high indoor slope. "I

SKIING

started skiing at Ski Dubai when I was three years old, and the Olympics was always a dream," Astridge, who will compete in the men's slalom, said.

"When the UAE Winter Sports Federation was created when I was 14, it was no longer a dream, and ever since I have been working towards it.

"A lot of nations have qualified athletes without mountains."

TIGER GOT THE BALL ROLLING

BY NEIL McLEMAN

BROOKS KOEPKA called Tiger Woods "right away" for help after deciding to leave LIV Golf for family reasons.

And now the former world No.1 is looking forward to taking on the "dominant" Scottie Scheffler (below) and Rory McIlroy back on the PGA Tour.

The American will tee up at the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines tomorrow in his first PGA Tour event since 2022.

He announced he was leaving the Saudi-backed LIV Golf just before Christmas and revealed he then called Woods, now the vice-chairman of PGA Tour Enterprises, to set in motion his rapid return under the new Returning Member Program.

"On the 23rd I was released, and then I called Tiger right away," he said. "That process got the ball rolling.

"I've always had a good relationship with Tiger. That was the first person that kind of came to mind."

Koepka's wife Jena Sims announced on Instagram in October that she had suffered a miscarriage at 16 weeks.

And asked about the main reason for his return, the five-time Major winner said: "It was about my family.

"A lot's gone on over the past five, six months with my family.

Koepka wanted back on PGA Tour for his family...so Woods was the first person he called

That played a big role in coming back. I'm not going to get into too much detail about the family issues that we've had, but it was September, right around the Ryder Cup week.

"Circumstances kind of changed in my family a little bit.

"That's when things started to change and evolve, and just started to have those conversations of what's best for my family. So we took it from there.

"I'm super grateful for [LIV boss] Yasir Al-Rumayyan and [LIV CEO] Scott O'Neil, the way they handled things." In his

pre-tournament press conference, Koepka dodged all the questions on golf politics but admitted he will miss the "big travelling circus" of LIV.

But he can now play predominantly in the USA instead of travelling worldwide, with the new LIV Golf season starting in Riyadh next week. Koepka said his family – the couple have a son Crew born in 2023 – would now be able to be with him "all the time".

He added: "That was one thing because they didn't travel too much over the last few years. But they're going to be out this week, so I am super excited."

Koepka signed a five-year deal worth \$150 million (£108.8m) to join LIV in 2022 with half of that paid up front. He will give up a total of

\$15m (£10.8m) for the final year of his contract, plus pay \$5m (£3.6m) to charity.

He has been suffering from injury and feared for his playing future when he left the PGA Tour. But he insisted: "I don't regret anything I do.

"I've learned a lot. I've always enjoyed the ride, no matter where I'm at."

He said he was "nervous" about the reaction of fans, but added: "I'm super excited. Scottie's

been dominant, I guess is probably the right word. Rory's got five Majors. I'm excited to battle with them."



AYE OF THE TIGER

Koepka (main) turned to Woods (above) for support



1. Which Charlotte Hornets player, against Cleveland Cavaliers in 2025, became the fastest man to 100 career three-pointers in NBA history?
2. For which club did Bedito Mantato make his Premier League debut in December, 2025?
3. Which Northampton Saints player scored a hat-trick in the 2025-2026 Gallagher PREM win at Bath Rugby?
4. Which Somali runner won men's 1500m gold at the 1987 World Athletics Championships?
5. Which county cricket club has the one-day nickname Dynamos?
6. Which of the Grand Slam tennis tournaments was played on an acrylic-based surface called Plexicushion until 2020, where it was replaced by GreenSet?
7. Which American golfer won the 1988 US PGA golf championship?
8. Which Mexican beat John H Stracey at Wembley in 1976 to take his WBC Welterweight crown?
9. Which player did Steve Davis beat in an all-English World Snooker Championship final in 1984?
10. Which Soviet female athlete won gold in the shot put at the 1960 and 1964 Olympics?

10 to tackle
RATINGS
0-3 Oh dear
4-6 Small beer
7-9 So near
10 Sporting Seer

ANSWERS: 1 Kon Knueppel 2 Manchester United 3 Tommy Freeman 4 Abdul Bile 5 Durrham 6 Australian Open 7 Jeff Sluman 8 Carlos Palomino 9 Jimmy White 10 Tamara Press

Harry rolls out cheeky 'beer smash' routine after battering Sri Lanka with pal Root

'It was just about celebrating with the boys... like I said before, I have got to try and gain that trust back'

SCOREBOARD

Third One Day International
Sri Lanka v England
COLOMBO: England beat Sri Lanka by 53 runs

ENGLAND
R Ahmed c Vandersay b Hasaranga 24
B Duckett c Wellalage b de Silva 7
J Root not out 111
J Bethell c Liyanage b Vandersay 65
H Brook not out 136
B4 lb3 w7 14
Total (3 wks., 50 overs) 357
Fall: 19, 40, 166.

Bowling: Fernando 9-0-77-0, Liyanage 3-1-7-0, de Silva 5-0-45-1, Wellalage 10-0-49-0, Hasaranga 10-0-76-1, Vandersay 10-0-76-1, Asalanka 3-0-20-0.

SRI LANKA
P Nissanka c Sub b Overton 50
R Mishara c Ahmed b Jacks 22
B Mendis c Brook b Overton 20
R Rathnayake b Curran 121
K Asalanka c Brook b Rashid 13
K Liyanage run out 22
D de Silva c Curran b Jacks 9
D Wellalage c Jacks b Dawson 22
P Hasaranga c Duckett b Rashid 9
J Vandersay c Curran b Dawson 14
A Fernando not out 0
Lb1 w1 2
Total (46.4 overs) 304
Fall: 48, 85, 94, 131, 174, 202, 252, 264, 298.

Bowling: Overton 4-0-48-2, Curran 5-4-0-44-1, Dawson 10-0-48-2, Jacks 8-0-43-2, Rashid 10-0-61-2, Bethell 5-0-28-0, Ahmed 4-0-31-0.
Umpires: R Wimalasiri & R Tucker.

STONE COLD BROOK

FROM **SCOTT HUNT** in Colombo
JOE ROOT insists there was "no malice" behind Harry Brook's celebration as the England captain toasted his stunning century with wrestler 'Stone Cold' Steve Austin's 'beer smash' move.

Brook hammered 136 from 66 balls to lift England to a match-winning total of 357-3 in Colombo, building on Root's 20th ODI century in a 53-run victory over Sri Lanka which clinched a 2-1 series win.

The 26-year-old began this tour by apologising to England supporters for his "terrible mistake" after an altercation with a nightclub bouncer in New Zealand on their last white-ball tour in October.

Brook admitted he should not have been in that situation and was lucky to still be captain.

News of that incident, for which he was fined, came at the end of an Ashes tour where England had to face accusations of a drinking culture.

The Yorkshire batter confirmed his celebration was the one made famous by WWE star Austin, who smashed two cans of beer together before pouring them down his throat (inset) – a gesture which could raise eyebrows after the issues over the winter.

But Root insists that is merely Brook's humour and part of his way of regaining the trust of the squad. "That's his way of doing that, trying to show that he wants that approval from the group," said Root.

"It's through humour. That's another area of why he's going to be a great leader. It's because he has that side to him as well. He showed his calmness, his

clarity under pressure. He also showed humour as well. Hopefully, it's received in the right way.

"Definitely no malice behind it. He's just trying to have a bit of a joke with his team-mates."

Brook said: "It was just more about celebrating with the boys. Like I said the other day, I've got to try and gain that trust back."

Victory clinched just a second ODI series win in their last eight and was an impressive display after losing the opener against a side who had won their last seven ODI series at home.

Pavan Rathnayake's 121 kept Sri Lankan hopes alive but he was the last to fall as they were bowled out with 3.2 overs to spare.

Brook's innings was an extraordinary display of timing and power. After reaching his half-century, it took him only 26 more balls to make his unbeaten 136, an ODI career-best, with nine sixes in a 191-run stand.

That he had the platform to do so was thanks to Root, who followed up scores of 61 and 75 in the first two matches with an imperious unbeaten 111.

The 35-year-old is now heading home while most of the group move on to a three-match T20 series in Pallekele, before next month's T20 World Cup.

Root's form raised the question of why he is not involved in that team, having not played an international T20 since 2019.

"I'm quite aware of where I probably sit within the international team and that format," Root said.

"I don't think I'll ever give that up. But I'm a long way off it."

"Harry's got an incredible job to do. The last thing he needs is some old bloke picking at his ear."

"That's part and parcel of the game. Those guys are ahead of me, they are an incredible group of players who definitely have the tools and ability to go out and win this tournament."

COURTING DISASTER

Gauff trashes her racket – and is caught on camera

Coco's going loco at racket smash video

FROM **YASMIN SYED** in Melbourne
COCO GAUFF has called for more privacy for players after being caught on camera smashing her racket.

The world No.3 suffered a shock loss to Elina Svitolina (below) in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open – and admitted she tried to find a place without any cameras to take out her frustration on her racket.

The American crashed out 6-1 6-2 in just 59 minutes and her disappointment was clear as she walked quickly off court.

She was then captured by the tournament's behind-the-scenes coverage smashing her racket repeatedly on the ground. Footage was broadcast on TV and social media.

"I tried to go somewhere where there were no cameras," Gauff said.

"Certain moments – the same thing happened to Aryna Sabalenka after I played her in the final of the US Open – feel like they don't need to be broadcast."

"Maybe some conversations can be had, because I feel, at this tournament, the only private place we have is the locker room."

Gauff had no regrets about her actions, saying: "I don't want to lash out on my team. They are good people. They don't deserve that. I know I'm emotional. So I just took the minute to go and do that."

"I don't think it's a bad thing. I try not to do it on court in front of kids, but I know I need to let out that emotion."



CARLOS ON THE MARCH

FROM **YASMIN SYED**
CARLOS ALCARAZ broke Aussie hearts as he crushed home favourite Alex de Minaur.

De Minaur, the last Aussie standing in the singles, was no match for world No.1 Alcaraz who took a step closer to completing a career Grand Slam with a 7-5 6-2 6-1 victory.

It is the Spaniard's first trip to the semi-finals in Melbourne, and he has yet to drop a set.

He said: "I'm just happy to see where my level is right now."

Alcaraz will next face last year's runner-up Alexander Zverev after the German beat American Learner Tien 6-3 6-7 6-1 7-6.

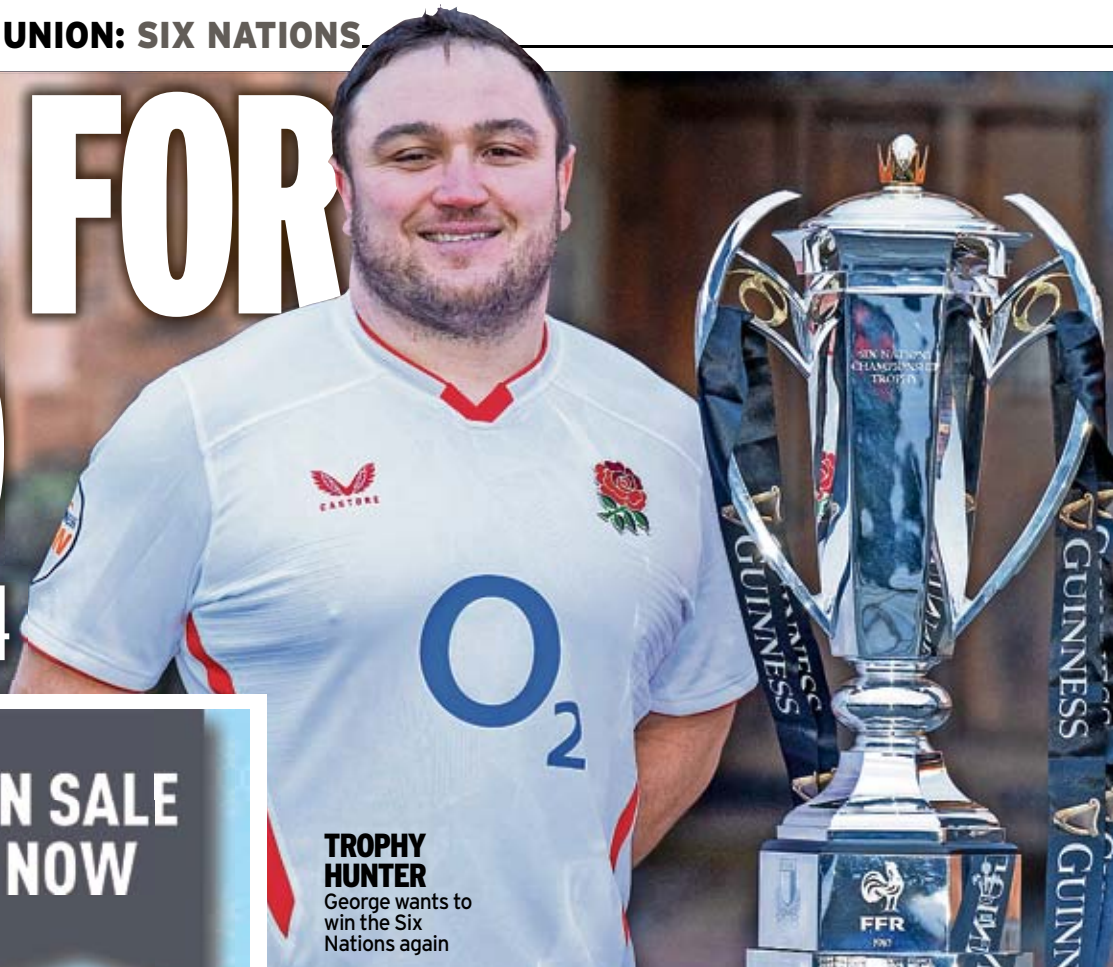
TWIN TONS

Brook and Root both reached three figures in a huge England total



WIN MORE FOR THE ROAD

Jamie aims to bow out with title No.4



TROPHY HUNTER

George wants to win the Six Nations again

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BY ADAM HATHAWAY

JAMIE GEORGE is impatient to win a fourth Six Nations title before he signs off from rugby.

The hooker claims he has suffered too many near-misses with England – and he wants to keep his bosses happy too.

George, who will retire at the end of 2027, won a Grand Slam in 2016 and championships in 2017 and 2020, all under Eddie Jones, to add to silver and bronze medals in World Cups in 2019 and 2023 (consoled by coach Steve Borthwick after defeat by South Africa, below).

But that is not enough for George or the RFU. On Monday they released a strategy document, Plan 2030, outlining ambitions to grow the game in this country while demanding more success from senior England teams.

Borthwick's side are on an 11-match winning streak and expectation going into the Six Nations is high.

But since that Slam a decade ago, England have failed to deliver in the tournament and George has sided with his employers, declaring it is time to get some trophies in the Twickenham cabinet.

The 35-year-old said: "I have been lucky enough to win three of these and that isn't enough in my time."

"At England, we want to be at the top, we want to win things but we have got too many second places and too many third places and that extends itself to World Cups as well."

The sign of a good team is finding a way to win and doing that consistently is something we are looking to achieve.

"I have got, hopefully, two Six Nations left in my career and I want to get my hands on that trophy as much as anyone."

"The motivation is incredibly high in the squad and there is a real appetite to kick on and achieve things like the RFU are talking about."

England flew to Girona yesterday for a week-long training camp ahead of their opener against Wales on Saturday week.

Borthwick allows his players to let their hair down now and again, and the week in Spain will be no different.

But George, a keen cricket fan, stressed it will not be a mid-Ashes-style bender as enjoyed by Ben Duckett and Co in Queensland.

He said: "It won't be like Noosa and if it was you would know nothing about it! It is important to get the team together. We are on a golf course and there will be opportunities to go into Barcelona potentially."

"That is a big thing that we shied away from a lot in my time as an England player, not recently, but when everything has to be focussed around rugby, rugby, rugby and if you are doing anything else it is almost discouraged."

"Actually, the more you can switch off from it, the more it allows you to throw yourself into the rugby when it happens."



Props are Fin on the ground

BY ADAM HATHAWAY

ENGLAND'S prop problems are piling up with loosehead Fin Baxter due to have foot surgery this week which is set to rule him out of the Six Nations.

Baxter (left) did not travel to England's training camp and Sale back row Ben Curry, who has hamstring trouble, was also

left at home. Boss Steve Borthwick has already lost tight-heads Will Stuart and Asher Opoku-Fordjour.

Harlequins flanker Jack Kenningham flew to Girona as cover but with Ellis Genge, Emmanuel Iyogun and Bevan Rodd as looseheads there is no replacement for Baxter.



STAYING ON TRACK
Frank eyes a route to last 16 despite Kolo Muani's crash

'Behind the scenes a lot is going in right direction'

FRANK KEEPING CALM DESPITE LATEST TWIST IN SPURS' TRAUMATIC SEASON

FRANKFURT v TOTTENHAM
Champions League: League stage, KO 8pm

BY **ALASDAIR GOLD**

THOMAS FRANK is adamant Tottenham's season is not turning into a "catastrophe" despite Randal Kolo Muani narrowly escaping serious injury in a car crash yesterday.

The Spurs forward, 27, who is on loan from Paris Saint-Germain, was driving from the club's Enfield training ground to Stansted Airport to catch the team flight to Germany for Tottenham's Champions League decider at Eintracht Frankfurt.

It was en route to the airport that Muani (circle) was involved in an accident that left the right-hand side of his Ferrari smashed, his windscreen cracked and his airbag deployed.

Team-mate Wilson Odobert was behind Kolo Muani on the motorway and pulled over to check that he was OK after the accident.

Tottenham head coach Frank

explained that the duo were set to join the squad on a later flight last night.

"They are both fine. Everyone else involved in that accident was fine. It was a tyre blowing up and so the two of them are a little bit delayed, but they will land later," said the Dane.

When asked if both were in the right frame of mind to face Frankfurt in tonight's big European clash, Frank added: "That is my absolute understanding of everything. I haven't spoken to them personally yet. The first message is that they are fine and nothing happened. They will fly out later and I fully expect both to be available."

Two players who will not be flying out to Germany are defenders Pedro Porro and Micky van de Ven, after the duo added their names to Tottenham's long injury list.

"It definitely does not help any of us," Frank admitted. "Of course, we prefer to have the best players out there on the pitch. Any coach wants that and any team-mate wants that, but we also have a

squad and need other players to step up as they've done and perform."

A win tonight will secure Spurs a spot in the last 16 – in stark contrast to their Premier League form where Spurs sit 14th.

But the Spurs boss said: "Again, it's not about me.

"It's about us. I'm very happy that the team and club are in a position where we can finish top eight in the best club tournament in the world. It's super, super competitive.

"It's my job to look a little bit in the bigger perspective. Even though we haven't won as much as we want, there's very, very few things that need to go our way.

"Sometimes it's the small things where even if you're doing them you don't get the result and then the whole thing is a catastrophe but actually behind the scenes there's a lot of things going in the right direction."

PROBABLE LINE-UPS

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT (4-2-3-1): Kauer; Collins, Koch, Theate, Brown; Hojlund, Larsson; Doan, Goetze, Bahoya; Knauff.

TOTTENHAM (4-2-3-1): Vicario; Spence, Danso, Romero, Udogle; Palhinha, Gray; Kolo Muani, Xavi, Odobert; Solanke.

REFEREE: Jessy Gil Manzano (ESP)



Carrick's rapid response team is reviving United

BY **STEVEN RAILSTON**

MICHAEL CARRICK is quickly building a team to admire at Manchester United.

But while his players are enjoying the plaudits after back-to-back victories over Manchester City and Arsenal, it's Carrick's backroom staff who have laid the foundations.

It's been a perfect start for United's interim manager.

Two wins have helped restore optimism for the run-in after he inherited a team that was already out of all the cups.

Assistant manager Steve Holland and coach Jonathan Woodgate have been hands-on alongside Carrick (circle) during training sessions.

Jonny Evans and Travis

Binnion are also serving as first-team coaches.

Woodgate speaks Spanish from his time at Real Madrid and that has helped him build a bond with the Spanish-speaking players in the squad.

Unsurprisingly, the former England centre-back is helping prepare United's defenders.

During their time working together at Middlesbrough, Carrick said: "The impact Woodgate has had on me and around the place is massive... his character, knowledge and love of the game.

"He sees things a little bit differently than me. We feed off each other in a good,

dynamic way." Evans has been responsible for individual work with the defenders.

He retired from playing last summer and initially took up a role as head of loans and pathways, but looks better suited to coaching.

He is hugely respected at Carrington and works particularly well with the younger players.

Respect for boyhood United fan Holland is widespread.

He has worked with Jose Mourinho, Rafa Benitez and Antonio Conte and oversaw the bulk of coaching while Gareth Southgate's assistant manager for England.



JON SHOW
Woodgate is providing Carrick with a different view on the game

HEN ON CHERRY HITLIST

BY **RYAN TAYLOR**

BOURNEMOUTH have made Inter Milan winger Luis Henrique their primary transfer window target.

The 24-year-old is operating as a right wing-back for Inter Milan but dazzled for Marseille last season, netting nine goals.

Turkish side Besiktas are also interested in Henrique (above) but the Italians will only do business if they can source a replacement first.

The Cherries have completed the signing of Lazio goalkeeper Christos Mandas. It is an initial loan deal worth £1.3million that could become a permanent for £16m move this summer.

The Greek international, 24, said: "It's an amazing feeling to be a part of this club. I feel so proud."



SITTING IT OUT
Sterling's days at Chelsea may be close to an end



PALMER STAYS BUT STERLING EXIT IS CLOSE

NAPOLI v CHELSEA
Tonight: Naples, KO 8pm

BY **BOBBY VINCENT**
in Naples
RAHEEM STERLING'S Stamford Bridge nightmare could be resolved in the next few days.

But new Chelsea boss Liam Rosenior has branded suggestions of a Cole Palmer move to Manchester United as "so unrealistic".

Rosenior was not so forthcoming on the future of out-of-favour winger Sterling, who is understood to be in discussions to leave ahead of the transfer window closing on Monday.

The Blues boss said of the 31-year-old former England winger: "I've said what I've had to say on Raheem. He's a player I have massive respect for."

"Huge respect for as a person and what he's achieved in the game. Now is not the right time to speak about his situation."

But Rosenior was keen to puncture any speculation linking star-man Palmer (with the head coach, above) with United, admitting ahead of tonight's clash against Napoli the England star is "untouchable".

Rosenior said: "Yes, he is untouchable, and yes he is happy. It's simple, Cole's an incredible player. The guy sitting next to me, Moises Caicedo, I've seen many players in the group who are incredible."

"I'm not surprised at the timing. A new manager comes in and all of a sudden there's people unsettled. It's not true. Cole's here, he's very happy



and I can't wait to see him back on the pitch.

"There's no reason for an assurance that the club won't sell him. It's so unrealistic. It's come from nowhere. There's nothing in it. There's no reason to have the conversation. That's where I'm at."

"I've had numerous conversations with him. Our thoughts are on how we can make this team better, how he can improve and how I can help him."

"He loves being here and he wants to be a Chelsea player. You can't stop speculation, but some speculation is so far from the truth. There's no point in having a discussion about it."

The Blues go into their final Champions League game in eighth. A win could put

Rosenior's side through to the last 16, but it may come down to goal difference.

If Chelsea fail to win, the likelihood is that they will be condemned to the play-off round.

Either way, Rosenior is expecting a really tough test against Antonio Conte's side.

"This is a very strong team," he said. "We know it's going to be a very difficult game in a very special atmosphere."

On Conte, Rosenior added: "Huge respect for him, firstly as a player, he was a magnificent footballer. He then went on to have an incredible, and still has an incredible career, as a coach. His passion as a player transmits to the passion in his teams."

CHELSEA: Sanchez; Gusto, Fofana, Chalobah, Cucurella; James, Caicedo; Palmer, Fernandez, Neto; Joao Pedro

PARIS ST-GERMAIN v NEWCASTLE UTD
Tonight: Parc des Princes, KO 8pm

BY **LEE RYDER**

ANTHONY GORDON is adamant he will not let criticism stand in the way of his pursuit of greatness, as it's purely "the nature of the beast".

The Liverpool-born star has gone over a year since scoring from open play in the Premier League and has reserved his best Newcastle performances for the bright lights of Europe.

Winger Gordon has netted six times in the Champions League and admitted he loves Toon's Euro nights, ahead of tonight's clash with holders Paris Saint-Germain.

But after enduring some harsh criticism online, Gordon says he chooses to take the high road on such comments and it won't change him as a player.

Gordon said: "It is what you make it. I stay off social

Toon star won't let 'beastly' comments knock confidence

media, I don't use it. So it's not that bad for me – I don't see a lot of it.

"I know a lot of players do, so it's their choice. It is what you make it, but it's not for me."

"I don't care for people's opinions, whether they love me or they don't like me, it doesn't bother me either way."

"It's not personal to me, it's just, 'It's your job, it's what you're meant to do'. If part of trying to be great at something is you can't take people's opinions, good or bad, then you're probably not meant to be great, I don't think."

"I'm not a very sensitive person. I just try and focus on myself all the time because that's all I can do. And the world we live in now, that just comes with the territory, it's the nature of the

beast." When asked if he could use some of the criticism as fuel to inspire greater performances, Gordon said: "It depends on the person, the individual."

"I don't prefer to do that. I like to just go off my own motivation, the things that motivate me daily."

"But that comes from within for me. Everyone works differently. Some people can use the social media stuff for motivation. But that's not my style."

Gordon's form in the Premier League has been a source of frustration for many Toon fans, with only a couple of penalties to his name this campaign.

In contrast, only Harry Kane and Kylian Mbappe have more goals in Europe's elite competition this term.

Asked why he plays better in

the Champions League, compared to the Premier League, Gordon said: "I just think it's the biggest, it's the best."

"You're facing the European champions like we are [tonight]. You're playing all the best players, the best managers."

Gordon was also quizzed on whether the expectations of him are too high and he added: "Perception can sometimes distort reality a little bit. I think people's expectations of me have grown, and rightly so, and I'm completely fine with that."

"But I know I'm doing the right things every day. Whether I'm flying, whether I'm not playing so well, I try and just give my best and the result sometimes is kind of out of my hands."

"I'm always playing against right-backs who are elite, so I know people expect a lot from me, but they're also quite good players themselves and they get paid quite well to stop me."

NEWCASTLE: Pope, Trippier, Thiaw, Botman, Hall; Bruno, Tonalì, Miley; Gordon, Wissa, Murphy

LOUD & CLEAR
Gordon hopes to continue fine Euro form tonight vs PSG



I do not listen to boo-boys... I know I'll come GORD

JEREMIE IS LOVING HIS GAME OF PING-PONG

Dutch star with Blue roots has bounced his way around Europe's top tables, and says: I want last 16 for amazing Reds



DUTCH & GLOW
Holland ace Frimpong in the mood to help Liverpool march on

LIVERPOOL v QARABAG

Tonight: Anfield, KO 8pm

BY IAN DOYLE

FOR a player who grew up at the other end of the East Lancs Road, Jeremie Frimpong is enjoying plying his trade on Merseyside.

It took him the better part of 16 years from when Liverpool first showed interest in the Dutch youth player to him actually signing on to play at Anfield.

Back then, as a nine-year-old, he picked Manchester City to try to develop himself into a professional footballer.

Once he turned pro, he spent two years in the green half of Glasgow before four more in Germany with Leverkusen.

But when Arne Slot and Liverpool came calling at the end of last season, the versatile defender-cum-midfielder was

only too happy to sign for £29.5million to be a Red.

It has been an up and down campaign for the defending Premier League champions but the man who has graduated to the Dutch national team as well is thrilled to be enjoying the highly-competitive nature of the English top flight.

"I feel really good," said Frimpong as he prepared for the final Champions League phase game tonight in front of the Kop against Qarabag.

"I'm from Manchester so to be back in the UK is really nice and to play for a team like Liverpool is a privilege.

"Everybody wants to play in the Champions League. We are going to give it our all.

"Sometimes football goes your way, sometimes it doesn't. We try our best every game and sometimes it doesn't work out.

"In the Champions League we are doing good and are in a

good position. If we win we qualify for the last 16. We are still in the FA Cup and the Champions League.

"It's been really nice playing for Liverpool, playing at Anfield for the first time was amazing.

"Playing Premier League teams is as I expected – even the bottom team gives you a challenge.

"The Premier League is the best league out there. Bundesliga

is still a top league, but there's a big difference playing against the teams.

"It's much more demanding, much more physical. It is different."

Frimpong experienced that last Saturday night when they were turned over in stoppage time at Bournemouth in a 3-2 thriller.

The 25-year-old added: "Liverpool are the reigning champions and everyone wants to beat us. That's normal.

"People want to beat the champions. If you become champions, you are the bad guy.

"When it happens it's really frustrating and annoying especially the scruffy goal, last-minute throw in.

"You can be angry on that day, but the next day you switch on to the next match."

LIVERPOOL: Alisson; Frimpong, Gravenberch, Van Dijk, Robertson; Szoboszlai, Jones; Salah, Wirtz, Gakpo; Ekitike

VANTASTIC FUN Virgil van Dijk and Frimpong in training yesterday

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A SLOT OF NOISE TO DEAL WITH

FROM BACK PAGE

change in the dugout despite the Dutchman retaining the full backing of the Anfield hierarchy. "It's going to be really difficult to quiet the outside noise with the position we are in in the league," said Slot (right).

"Even if we win a few games, every loss will start the noise

coming back again. That's what you can expect if you started the season with so many losses.

"So it's impossible to shut down the noise at a club like this if you are not competing for the league."

While victory tonight will confirm direct progress to the

last 16, Slot is in no doubt the Reds are falling short in two key areas.

"In between the boxes we are a very good team. If we have the chances then be clinical and finish it off, that is something where we have to improve.

"And in the other box, other

teams arrive three, four times a game, but too many times if they arrive it leads to goals.

"There is a complete disbalance in how many times we arrive in promising positions and how many times other teams arrive there.

"But there is not a disbalance in the goals that are scored and that's a very bad cocktail."

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SPORT IN BRIEF

Sky Bet League One

BLACKPOOL (0).....1 STOCKPORT (2).....2
Bowler 90 Wootton 31
Att: 9,708 Diamond 33
BOLTON (0).....2 BURTON ALB (0) .. 1
Dalby 50, 90 Armer 69
Att: 18,820

CARDIFF (2).....4 BARNLEY (0).....0
Ng 3 Att: 17,841
Willcock 45, 69
Kellyman 63

DONCASTER (2).....3 L ORIENT (0).....0
Bailey 34, 49
Molyneux 45 (pen)

HUDDERSFIELD (0).....1 LUTON (0).....0
Ledson 48
Att: 15,367

LINCOLN C (2).....3 BRADFORD (0).....0
Draper 7 Att: 10,064
Moylan 41, House 86

PLYMOUTH (1).....1 MANSFIELD (1).....1
Pepple 20 Sweeney 41
Att: 8,404

PORT VALE.....P AFC WIMB'DN.....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.

READING (1).....2 EXETER (1).....2
Kearney 45 Sweeney 14
O'Connor 75 Woodhouse 90
Att: 8,404

ROTHERHAM (0).....2 NORTHAMPTON (1).....1
Gray 58 Eaves 26
Adegboyega 84

STEVENAGE (0).....1 PETERBORO (0).....0
Sweeney 79

WYCOMBE (1).....2 WIGAN (0).....0
Boyd-Munce 2 (pen) Att: 4,190
Woodrow 72

Cardiff.....28 18 5 5 50 27 59
Lincoln City.....28 16 7 5 47 29 55
Bolton.....29 13 10 6 37 27 49
Stockport City.....28 14 7 7 40 34 49
Bradford.....27 13 7 7 35 31 46
Huddersfield.....29 13 6 10 48 38 45
Stevenage.....27 11 9 7 29 24 42
Wycombe.....28 10 9 9 36 31 39
Luton.....28 11 6 11 37 34 39
Peterborough.....28 12 2 14 35 36 38
Exeter.....27 11 4 12 33 26 37
Mansfield.....26 10 7 9 36 30 37
Reading.....27 9 10 8 37 35 37
Plymouth.....28 11 4 13 35 40 37
Barnsley.....24 9 6 9 37 40 33
Blackpool.....28 9 5 14 35 41 32
AFC Wimbledon.....26 9 5 12 28 35 32
Leyton Orient.....28 9 5 14 40 48 32
Wigan.....27 7 10 10 29 33 31
Burton Albion.....27 8 6 13 28 39 30
Doncaster.....27 8 6 13 31 44 30
Northampton.....27 8 5 14 24 34 29
Rotherham.....27 7 13 27 40 28
Port Vale.....25 4 6 15 19 37 18

Sky Bet League Two
BARNET (0).....1 TRANMERE (0).....0
Shelton 90

BARROW.....P OLDHAM.....P
Postponed - due to adverse weather conditions.

BROMLEY (1).....2 CREWE (0).....2
Whitley 31 Pond 54
Thompson 70 Demetriou 90
Att: 3,618

CAMBRIDGE (0).....1 SHRWBSURY (0) .. 0
Knight 90 (pen) Att: 3,347

CHELTHAM.....P GILLINGHAM.....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.

COLCHESTER (0).....0 GRIMSBY (1).....1
Rodgers 38
Att: 4,237

HARROGATE (0).....1 FLEETWOOD (1).....2
Marsh 81 Evans 45
Virtue 90

MK DONS (1).....1 BRISTOL R (0).....0
Paterson 45 Att: 6,503

NEWPORT (1).....1 ACCRINGTON (1).....4
Opoku 35 Henderson 51
Sinclair 51
Madden 82
Heath 90
Att: 3,563

NOTTS CO (1).....2 SWINDON (1).....1
Jatta 44 Clarke 39
Dennis 66 Att: 8,931

SALFORD CITY (0).....0 CHESTERFLD (0) .. 1
Cooper 90 (og)
Att: 2,630

WALSALL (0).....0 CRAWLEY TN (0) .. 0
Att: 4,899

Bromley.....28 16 8 4 48 30 56
MK Dons.....28 14 8 6 54 29 50
Cambridge.....27 14 8 5 35 22 50
Salford City.....27 15 4 8 39 34 49
Notts County.....27 14 6 7 41 28 48
Walsall.....27 14 6 7 35 24 48
Swindon.....27 14 4 9 43 33 46
Chesterfield.....28 11 11 6 44 37 44
Grimsby.....27 12 7 8 39 30 43
Colchester.....27 11 9 7 41 30 42
Barnet.....27 11 8 8 36 29 41
Crewe.....28 11 7 10 44 37 40
Gillingham.....26 9 11 6 37 30 38
Accrington.....27 10 7 10 31 29 37
Fleetwood.....27 10 7 10 36 35 37
Oldham.....26 8 11 7 28 23 35
Tranmere.....28 8 12 42 47 32
Cheltenham.....27 9 13 26 45 30
Barrow.....26 6 14 27 39 24
Crawley Town.....28 5 8 15 30 47 23
Shrewsbury.....27 5 7 15 23 47 22
Bristol Rovers.....27 6 3 18 21 47 21
Newport City.....27 5 5 17 29 51 20
Harrogate Tn.....28 4 6 18 20 46 18

KDM Evolution Trophy
Quarter-Final's
ARBROATH.....P AIRDRIE.....P
Postponed - due to adverse weather conditions.

INVERNESS (0).....1 STENHSMUIR (0).....0
Bavidge 73

QUEEN'S PARK (0).....1 RAITH (1).....1
Fowler 73 Nsio 32; Att: 524
Raith Rovers win 3-1 on penalties.

ST JOHNSTONE.....P AYR.....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.

William Hill Scottish League Two

E KILBRIDE (0).....0 SPARTANS (3).....6
Dishington 8, 77
Stowe 33, 45
McNulty 64
Russell 90 (pen)

STRANRAER.....P CLYDE.....P
Postponed - due to waterlogged pitch.

P W D L F A Pts
Spartans.....21 12 4 5 36 23 40
East Kilbride.....21 9 5 7 36 33 32
Clyde.....20 7 10 3 32 20 31
Stranraer.....21 7 7 7 30 27 28
Stirling.....21 7 5 9 29 36 26
Forfar.....21 6 6 9 30 34 24
Annan Athletic.....19 5 7 7 26 31 22
Elgin.....19 5 6 8 27 29 21
Dumbarton.....20 6 5 9 31 38 18
Edinburgh City.....21 7 7 7 34 40 13

Enterprise National Lge
ROCHDALE (1).....2 SOUTHEND (1).....1
Gordon 45 Scott-Morris 41
Gilmour 90

P W D L F A Pts
Rochdale.....26 21 1 4 49 17 64
York.....28 18 2 7 74 28 62
Boreham Wood.....27 17 5 5 53 28 56
Scunthorpe.....27 16 8 3 49 30 56
Carlisle.....28 17 5 6 49 33 56
Forest Green.....29 15 10 4 48 29 55
FC Halifax.....29 14 5 10 45 39 47
Southend.....27 13 7 7 44 25 46
Hartlepool.....29 11 11 7 32 26 44
Solihull Moors.....29 11 8 10 50 42 41
Woking.....27 9 8 10 36 29 35
Wealdstone.....27 9 8 10 34 41 35
Tamworth.....28 10 5 13 33 47 35
Yeovil.....27 9 4 14 27 36 31
Brackley.....27 8 7 12 23 34 31
Eastleigh.....28 8 7 13 33 45 31
Altrincham.....28 9 3 16 33 43 30
Sutton Utd.....27 6 9 12 37 47 27
Boston Utd.....29 6 9 14 33 45 27
Aldershot.....27 7 5 15 46 55 26
Braintree Tn.....29 6 7 16 19 43 25
Truro City.....28 5 6 17 27 50 21
Morecambe.....28 5 6 17 33 60 21
Gateshead.....27 5 4 18 30 65 19

CRICKET
FIRST TWENTY20 INTERNATIONAL
AL—South Africa v West Indies
(Paarl): West Indies 173-7 (G F Linde 3-25); South Africa 176-1 (17.5 overs; A K Markram 86no). South Africa win by 9 wickets.

SNOOKER
GERMAN MASTERS (Tempodrom, Berlin)—1st rd: S Murphy (Eng) bt J Leclercq (Bel) 5-1; K Wilson (Eng) bt A McGill (Sco) 5-1; J Jones (Wal) bt J Brown (Nrl) 5-0.

TENNIS
AUSTRALIAN OPEN (Melbourne)—**Qtr-finals, Men:** (1) C Alcaraz (Spa) bt (6) A De Minaur (Aus) 7-5 6-2 6-1, (3) A Zverev (Ger) bt (25) L Tien (USA) 6-3 6-7 (5-7) 6-1 7-6 (7-3).

Women: (1) A Sabalenka (Bel) bt (29) I Jovic (USA) 6-3 6-0, (12) E Svitolina (Ukr) bt (3) C Gauff (USA) 6-1 6-2.

Men's Doubles Qtr-finals: J Kubler (Aus) & M Polmans (Aus) bt (12) S Dombia (Fra) & F Reboul (Fra) 6-4 7-6 (7-3).

Women's Doubles 3rd rnd: (4) E Mertens (Bel) & S Zhang (Chn) bt H Baptiste (USA) & P Stearns (USA) 6-4 6-3.

Mixed Doubles Qtr-finals: O Gadecki (Aus) & J Peers (Aus) bt (5) A Krunic (Ser) & M Pavic (Cro) 6-1 7-6 (8-6), (4) T Townsend (USA) & N Mektić (Cro) bt I Khromacheva (Rus) & C Harrison (USA) 6-4 6-2, K Mladenovic (Fra) & M Guinard (Fra) bt K Siniakova (Cze) & S Verbeek (Ned) 7-6 (7-2) 3-6 10-8, (2) L Stefani (Bra) & M Arevalo (Esa) bt A Danilina (Kaz) & J Tracy (USA) 2-6 6-4 10-7.

TODAY'S DIARY
(7.45pm unless stated)
UEFA Champions League - League Stage
AE Pafos v Slavia Prague (8pm).....
Ajax v Olympiakos (8pm).....
Arsenal v FC Kairat (8pm).....
Athletic Bilbao v Sporting Lisbon (8pm).....
Atletico Madrid v Bodø/Glimt (8pm).....
Barcelona v Copenhagen (8pm).....
Bayer Leverkusen v Villarreal (8pm).....
Benfica v Real Madrid (8pm).....
Borussia Dortmund v Inter Milan (8pm).....
Club Brugge v Marseille (8pm).....
Eintracht Frankfurt v Tottenham (8pm).....
Liverpool v Qarabag FK (8pm).....
(Live on TNT Sports 2)
Man City v Galatasaray (8pm).....
Monaco v Juventus (8pm).....
Napoli v Chelsea (8pm).....
(Live on TNT Sports 4)
Paris SG v Newcastle (8pm).....
PSV Eindhoven v Bayern Munich (8pm).....
Union Saint Gilloise v Atalanta (8pm).....

FIFA Women's Champions Cup
Semi-final: Arsenal v FAR Rabat (Live on Sky Sports Main Event, 6pm).

Southern Premier South: Havant and W v Bracknell Tn.

Betmcleod League Cup
Semi-Final's: Glentoran v Coleraine, Linfield v Ballymena Utd.

Breedon Highland League: Banks ODee v Lossiemouth (8pm), Brora v Clachnacuddin (8pm), Formartine United v Deveronvale (8pm), Rothes v Turf United (8pm).

CRICKET
4th T20 Inter'nal: India v New Zealand (Visakhapatnam, 1.30pm).

ICE HOCKEY
Elite League: Glasgow Clan v Nottingham Panthers.

PLAN OF ATTACK
Mikel Arteta keeps an eye on training yesterday

Guns reaction 'beautiful' to see says Art

ARSENAL v KAIRAT

Champions League: League stage, KO 8pm, TNT 7

BY TOM CANTON

MIKEL ARTETA has hailed Arsenal's reaction to losing against Manchester United as "beautiful" as they aim for Champions League perfection tonight.

The leaders' 3-2 home defeat on Sunday saw the gap at the top of the Premier League close to just four points.

But their response has impressed boss Arteta as they prepare to take on Kazakh side Kairat Almaty hoping to make it eight wins from eight in the new league phase.

"The reaction has been excellent," he said. "We took a moment to bring the temperature down, to pause and to reflect and ask two questions. One is, 'How do we feel, and how do I feel myself?'"

"And then, 'How are we going to live the next four months?' And it was so encouraging and beautiful because what came out of that is very simple.

"We have earned the right to be in a great position in four competitions and in the next four months we're going to live and play with enjoyment, with a lot of courage and with the conviction that we're going to win.

"This is going to be the mindset and where we're going to put the energy.

"I'm just hoping that everybody that is related to this club, especially our supporters, jump on that boat because we deserve to live like this."

Arteta clarified that this was not a crisis meeting, adding: "We have many [meetings]. In Milan, we had a big one as well. So, no, it is what is required. Sometimes you have to check.

"It's, 'What do I want? How do I want to live the next four months in the beautiful countries that we have ahead of us?' And it's a very important question."

Meanwhile, Christian Norgaard says he is "really happy" at Arsenal after reports linked him with a move to Ajax.

The out-of-favour midfielder, 31, joined from Brentford for £10m in July.

However, he has not started a game in the league and was left out of the squad for the defeat against Manchester United.

But Norgaard said: "I am happy here and the message that I get from the club is that they are really happy with me."

With Declan Rice and Mikel Merino suspended, Norgaard is likely to start against Kairat tonight.

ARSENAL (4-3-3): Kupa; White, Mosquera, Hincapie, Lewis-Skelly; Norgaard, Eze, Odegaard; Madueke, Gyokeres, Martinelli.

KAIRAT (4-2-3-1): Anarbekov; Tapalov, Martynovich, Sorokin, Mata; Sadybekov, Glazer; Mrynskiy, Jorginho, Gromyco; Edmilson.

REFEREE: Urs Schnyder (Switzerland).

MANCHESTER CITY v GALATASARAY

Champions League: League stage, KO 8pm, TNT 6

BY SIMON BAJKOWSKI

IT IS a time of year that Pep Guardiola teams are known to start applying pressure.

Size up the opposition, get on a roll, pick up win after win.

If leading from the front, show no weakness. If coming from behind, make the heat unbearable for whoever they are chasing down.

But as February sharpens into view this weekend, Guardiola finds his Manchester City chasing on not one but two fronts.

Arsenal's slip up against

Manchester United was a welcome gift to help City narrow the gap to the Gunners, sitting top of the Premier League pile, where they have been most of the season.

And in the Champions League, following a sobering defeat last week in Norway, City go into match-day eight needing a win or facing the prospect of adding a two-legged play-off to their season to make it to the last 16.

If Pep is starting to feel the pressure of the cauldron in which City find themselves, who could blame him? His job and the success he has had in it raises the bar of expectation with each passing season.

If he wins both these leagues this time, it may just be his greatest

City boss unrepentant as he renews attack on refs

achievement. But as if to illustrate the pressure this job places on him, his sit-down to preview tonight's visit of Galatasaray was briefly about Erling Haaland's struggles and modern management techniques – but a lot more about referees and their standards.

Guardiola said that he had started to speak out against

referees because nobody else would defend his players, as he stood by his criticism of Howard Webb and rookie Farai Hallam, who denied City a penalty against Wolves, despite being told to review the incident on the pitch-side monitor.

Hallam, making his Premier League debut, was lambasted by Guardiola at full-



FLASHPOINT
City were denied a penalty against Mosquera after a pitch-side check



THROWN TO THE WOLVES
Guardiola confronts referee Hallam after the game

REAL HEAD SCRATCHER

Pep Guardiola chokes his words carefully when facing the media yesterday

I CAN NEVER LET MY GUARD DOWN

time and criticised in the press conference afterwards. The City boss is unrepentant as he insisted the referee will be defended enough, despite the inconsistencies in decisions across the league.

"If he feels offended, I'm so sorry. I know it's not easy making a debut," Guardiola said.

"Just take a look in 10 years... in the FA Cup final with Crystal Palace and it's a natural position and it was a red card [for keeper Dean Henderson for handball outside the box], look at my comments after the game.

"Never in our defeats did I criticise referees, I know it's a difficult job. Look what happens in boxes, in corners. It's not easy and every action is a

foul. But I have to defend my club and my players and never ever in 10 years in the Champions League, Premier League, FA Cups – the first statement is congratulations to the opponent. All the time.

"If you say for one time or two times in 10 years, 'OK it's fine'. Everyone defends their position.

"When you are six minutes for a disallowed goal in the Carabao Cup, I have to tell. The hands against Wolves, it's happened. After what happened with Crystal Palace and Chelsea, I have to tell.

"I don't think the referees are going to defend us, so

I have to defend myself, my club. They defend each other, completely understandable. How many times did I criticise referees last season? It never happened.

"I was incredibly respectful in nine or 10 years with referees, never commenting on anything."

MAN CITY (4-2-3-1): Donnarumma; Nunes, Khusanov, Ake, Lewis; Reijnders, Silva; Foden, Cherki, Doku; Haaland.

GALATASARAY (4-2-3-1): Cakir; Sallai, Bardakci, Sanchez, Jakobs; Lemina, Torreira; Sane, Gundogan, Yilmaz; Osimhen.

REFEREE: Alejandro Hernandez (Spain).



Tammy reignites his Villa spark

TAMMY ABRAHAM vowed he is ready to "give everything" to Aston Villa after sealing his return in an £18.2m transfer from Turkish club Besiktas.

The 28-year-old (inset) spent the 2018-19 season on loan at Villa, scoring 26 goals in 40 appearances.

He helped the club win promotion to the Premier League and became the first Villa player since Andy Gray in 1976-77 to score 25 times in a league season.

Abraham said: "Some clubs play a big part in your journey and stay with you. I've scored goals, faced challenges, and grown as a player and a man. I'm back at Aston Villa, ready to give everything."

Villa are also close to re-signing Brazilian midfielder Douglas Luiz from Juventus. The clubs have talked and are understood to have agreed a deal for Luiz to return on loan to the end of the season.



BARRY HAS BIG GOALS

BY CONNOR O'NEILL

THIERNO BARRY has vowed to continue to prove his critics wrong and admitted the transition from Spain to England had been a steep learning curve for him.

Barry (inset) made it four goals in his last five Premier League games in Everton's 1-1 draw with Leeds on Monday.

He found goals hard to come by until he scored against Nottingham Forest last month.

Barry said: "You see the critics, but I like to prove people wrong. I need to adapt to the new league. It is more physical here. I need to work to know how to use my body to protect the ball."



Selling Foxes is not Top priority

BY JORDAN BLACKWELL

LEICESTER owner Aiyawatt 'Top' Srivaddhanaprabha says he has no intentions of selling the club he inherited from his late father – as it's like a "son" to him.

The Foxes are in the bottom half of the Championship, exactly where they were when the takeover was completed 15 years ago.

The severity of City's recent decline has left some supporters wanting the King Power group out.

But chairman Top (inset), whose father Vichai died in a helicopter crash in the club's car park in 2018, said: "Selling the club is not the way to exit.

"I have to make sure that I complete everything that I did here before I want to leave. Now I need to make sure the club is in a good place.

"Leicester is like my son to look after."



'I don't think the referees are going to defend us, so I have to defend myself'

DOKU DENIES DIVER TAG

FROM BACK PAGE

feelings about it. I could have been out for a long time. It happened and I didn't play in Norway, but I don't want to go too much into it. It is the past now.

"I didn't get injured badly and I am able to play now."

The Belgian also dismissed suggestions he goes to ground too easily as nonsense. "Knowing myself and my character, I know I am not a diver," he said. "If I fall on the ground,

then it is probably because something happened. In terms of laws, I know that when I am on the ground I am not diving.

"It is their responsibility to see if it is a yellow or red, a foul or not a foul – that is their job. Fouls are fine, as long as I don't get injured. I see it as a compliment, they can't take the ball.

"When I don't get a foul, I am not diving. That is sometimes frustrating because I know my character. Sometimes players tell me to fall more on the ground. That is more frustrating."

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	7	7	0	0	20	2	21	Marseille	7	3	0	4	11	11	9
Bayern Munich	7	7	0	0	1	20	7	Bayer Leverkusen	7	2	3	2	10	14	9
Real Madrid	7	5	0	2	19	8	15	Monaco	7	2	3	2	8	14	9
Liverpool	7	5	0	2	14	8	15	PSV	7	2	2	3	15	14	8
Tottenham	7	4	2	1	15	7	14	Athletic Bilbao	7	2	2	3	7	11	8
PSG	7	4	1	2	20	10	13	Olympiakos	7	2	2	3	8	13	8
Newcastle	7	4	1	2	16	6	13	Napoli	7	2	2	3	7	12	8
Chelsea	7	4	1	2	14	8	13	Copenhagen	7	2	2	3	11	17	8
Barcelona	7	4	1	2	18	13	13	Club Brugge	7	2	1	4	12	17	7
Sporting	7	4	1	2	14	9	13	Bodo/Glimt	7	1	3	3	12	14	6
Man City	7	4	1	2	13	9	13	Benfica	7	2	0	5	6	10	6
Atletico Madrid	7	4	1	2	16	13	13	AE Pafos	7	1	3	3	4	10	6
Atalanta	7	4	1	2	10	9	13	Union St Gilloise	7	2	0	5	7	17	6
Inter Milan	7	4	0	3	13	7	12	Ajax	7	2	0	5	7	19	6
Juventus	7	3	3	1	14	10	12	E Frankfurt	7	1	1	5	10	19	4
B Dortmund	7	3	2	2	19	15	11	Slavia Prague	7	0	3	4	4	15	3
Galatasaray	7	3	1	3	9	9	10	Villarreal	7	0	1	6	5	15	1
Oqarabag FK	7	3	1	3	13	15	10	FC Kairat	7	0	1	6	5	19	1



DAILY EXPRESS SPORT

express.co.uk/sport

I LEFT LIV FOR SAKE OF FAMILY

KOEPKA SPEAKS OUT: P52



DOKU: I AM NOT A DIVER

MANCHESTER CITY V GALATASARAY 8PM

BY SIMON BAJKOWSKI

JEREMY DOKU claims Diogo Dalot's derby challenge could have put him out of action for months - and has rubbished accusations he is a diver.

The Manchester City winger was hurt when United defender Dalot's studs raked his knee at Old Trafford



earlier this month. Doku (above) played on, but was unable to feature days later in the Champions League defeat at Bodo/Glimt and only came off the bench against Wolves on Saturday.

"I continued to play, but it was too painful to play in Norway," Doku said. "You guys know my

TURN TO PAGE 59, COLUMN 1

HARRY'S SMASH HIT

ENGLAND WIN THIRD ODI AND SERIES: PAGE 53



CAN-DO
Brook toasted his ton with a WWE-style 'beer smash' celebration

I CAN'T SHUT OUT THE NOISE

LIVERPOOL V QARABAG

BY IAN DOYLE

ARNE SLOT has admitted Liverpool's poor defence of their Premier League crown means he cannot stop speculation about his future.

Slot's position came under more scrutiny at the weekend when a 3-2 loss at Bournemouth saw the Reds drop to sixth place and outside the Champions League qualification berths.

With former Liverpool favourite Xabi Alonso back on the managerial market having been sacked by Real Madrid earlier this month, Slot's detractors have been calling for a

TURN TO PAGE 57, COLUMN 1

UNDER PRESSURE
Arne Slot can't afford many more Reds defeats



Slot knows Reds job rumours will only get louder with every loss



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SPECIAL: PAGES 55-59

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Puzzles

SUDOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, row, and 3x3 square includes all of the digits from one to nine. **Solutions tomorrow**

EASY

7			2		8		9	
3		1				5		7
		9		3	7	4		
5		3		8				4
	2		5		1		3	
9				6				
		5	8	1		9		
8	3	4				7	1	5
1				4	5			3

MEDIUM

6				4	9	2		
	9				5			3
	7		8	3			9	
3				1			5	9
			6		4			
2	1			5				8
	5			8			1	
1			5		3		8	
		3	9			5		6

DIFFICULT

			3		8	4	6	
			5					
4				6				2
			6		2	7	5	
1								8
	6	7	9		5			
3				4				7
					9			
	4	9	7		6			

Extra clues:
0901 322 5609

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Today's solution:
0907 181 2573

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

QUICK CROSSWORD

1		2		3		4	5		6		7	
8												
						9						
10												
							11					
12						13						
										14		15
	16		17			18			19			
20												
							21					
22												
								23				
24												

ACROSS

4 Small flute (7)
8 Fill (6)
9 Loan (7)
10 Helm (6)
11 Make (6)
12 Soak (8)
18 Sad (8)
20 Commotion (6)
21 Chance (6)
22 Ease (7)
23 Deny (6)
24 Coax (7)

DOWN

1 Fight (7)
2 Assistant (7)
3 Seem (6)
5 Unbecoming (8)
6 Cowardly (6)
7 Place (6)
13 Commendation (8)
14 Sports-ground (7)
15 Scurry (7)
16 Talk (6)
17 Courteous (6)
19 Paradise (6)

Solution tomorrow

SMALL CROSSWORD

1	2	3		4	5	6		7
			8					
9						10		
11							12	
13		14						
			15			16		
17					18			
19								
	20							

ACROSS

1 Extremely delicate or refined (8)
8 Brought up (6)
9 Visit (4)
10 Epoch (3)
11 Genuine (6)
13 Brain cult (anag.) (9)
15 Capital of Turkey (6)
17 Jerk (3)
18 Door handle (4)
19 Expresses a view (6)
20 Invigorate (8)

DOWN

1 Moving stairs (9)
2 Crockery item (6)
3 Stop (4)
4 Leftover amount (9)
5 British peer (4)
6 Stadium (5)
7 Versatile (9)
12 Enlists (6)
14 Start (5)
15 Pimples (4)
16 Not in favour of (4)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call **0905 789 4188** to hear individual clues or the full solution

**Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. Service provider Spoke Ltd - Helpline 0333 202 3390*

CROSS DOUBT

Target times: Average: 20 mins
Good: 16 mins Excellent: 12 mins

Stuck? Call for a clue
0901 322 5601
Halve your Target Time!

Today's solution
0901 322 5607
Both today's words in a moment!

**Calls cost 75p plus your telephone company's network access charge.*

Can you make two common five-letter words from the nine letters given, using each letter only once? You can - but only if one letter features in both words in the squares on the right. There's at least one way to do it, and you have to have the right letter at the crossover - but which one is it?

See if you can find the answer within our target time. If you need help, ring our clue-line below to find out the crossover letter. **Solution tomorrow**

A C G H L M O S W

KAKURO

	4	6				3	26	10
7					11			
			6		3			
6				10				
		6		4		3		
		15				13		
	27				3	6		
8				6				
	12			3				
	17				6		3	4
6						3		

Fill each sequence of blank squares using the numbers 1-9. Each sequence - across and down - must total the number in the shaded box at the beginning or top of each line. A number may be repeated in each line but NOT in a sequence.

Solution tomorrow

Puzzles

QUIZWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Infectious disease of parrots and other birds that can be transmitted to humans (11)
9 & 10 1977 Erich Segal novel that was a sequel to Love Story (7,5)
10 See 9
11 See 3 Down
12 1997 Robert Zemeckis film starring Jodie Foster as Ellie Arroway (7)
13 & 17 Down Author of the graphic novels David Boring and Ghost World (6,6)
15 Tall graceful breed of hound with a long silky coat (6)
18 City in New Mexico that housed the Walker Air Force Base from 1942 to 1967 (7)
20 River in northern France that was scene of heavy fighting during the First World War (5)
22 See 23
23 & 22 Central character in George Orwell's novel Nineteen Eighty-Four (7,5)
24 1985 novel by John Broderick (3,4,4)

DOWN

- 2** 'The ---', 1973 George Roy Hill film that won a Best Picture Oscar (5)
3 & 11 Across Josef von Sternberg film starring Marlene Dietrich as Lola Lola (3,4,5)
4 Region and former province of eastern France between the Rhine and the Vosges Mountains (6)

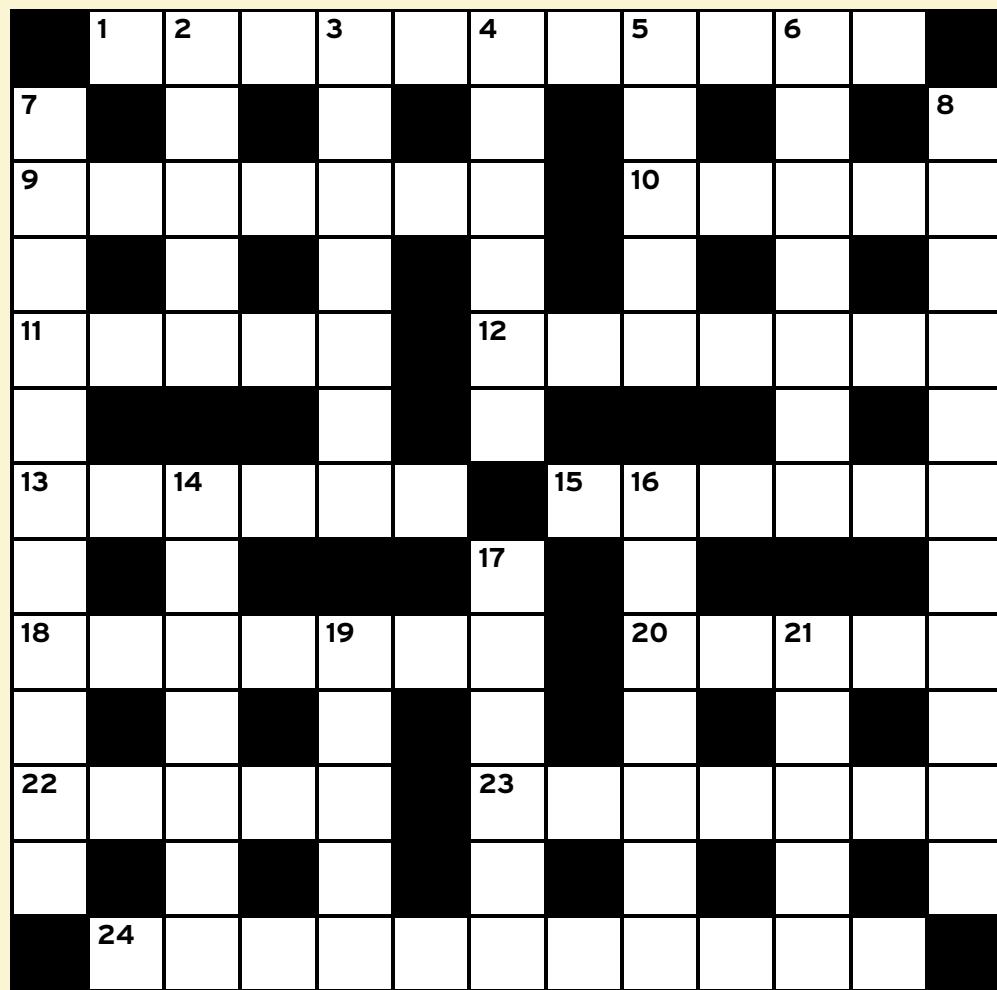
- 5** Ole, comedy partner of Chic Johnson whose films include Hellzapoppin' (5)
6 Line on a map connecting points of equal underwater depth (7)
7 Best Actor in a Supporting Role Oscar winner for How Green Was My Valley (6,5)
8 1991 World Formula 1 motor racing champion (6,5)
14 Michael, guitarist with The Monkees who died in 2021 (7)
16 Lighthouse in the Atlantic Ocean south-west of Cape Clear, Republic of Ireland (7)
17 See 13 Across
19 In Greek mythology, the upper regions of the atmosphere (5)
21 Unit of length equal to 1.094 yards (5)

Solution tomorrow

Stuck on the puzzle? Call
0905 789 4190
 to hear individual clues or
 the full solution

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your
 telephone company's network access charge.

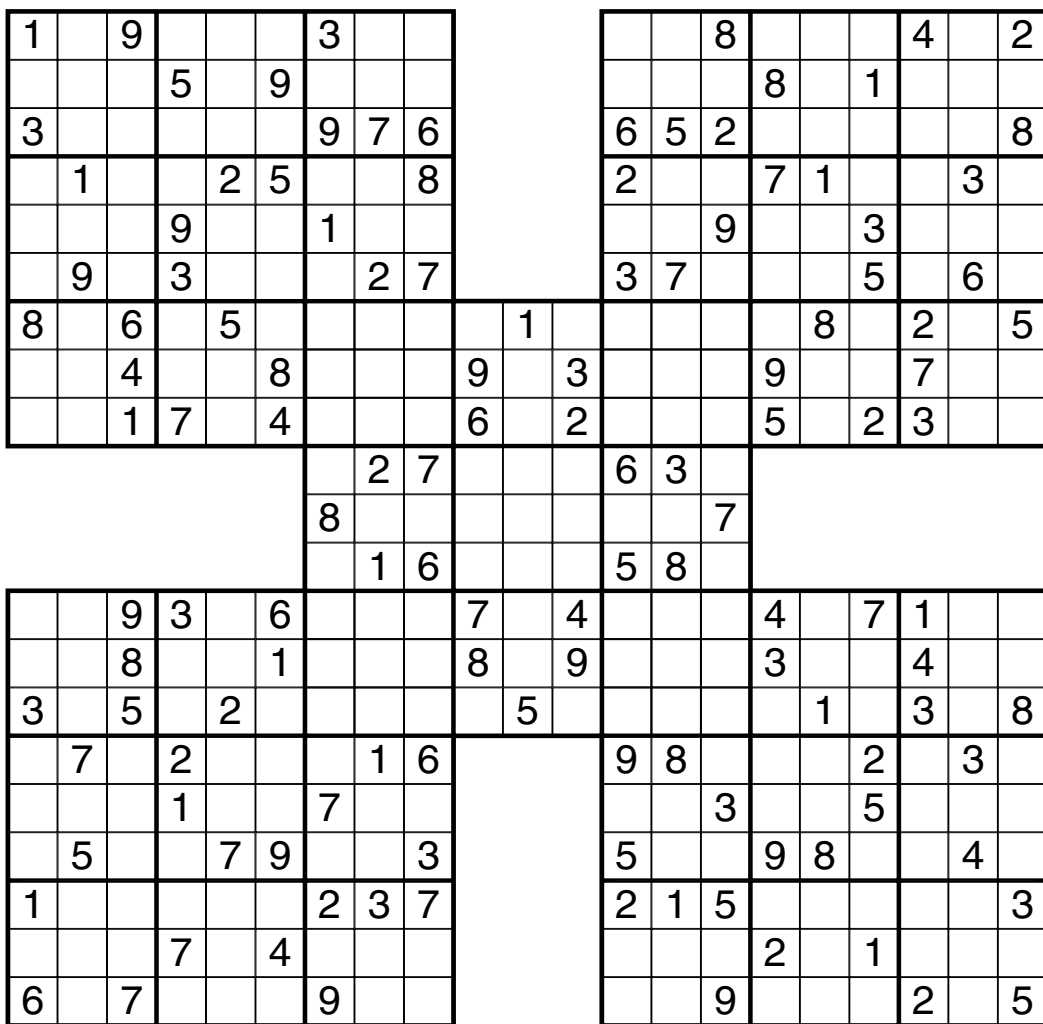
Service provider Spoke Ltd -
 Helpline 0333 202 3390



SAMURAI SUDOKU

In Samurai Sudoku, normal sudoku rules apply, but the 9x9 sudoku at the centre shares four of its 3x3 boxes with those of the outer sudokus.

Solution tomorrow



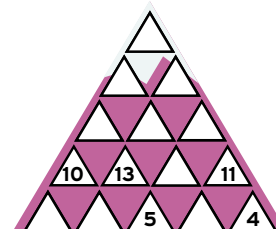
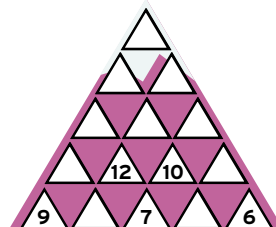
WORD BUILDER

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

Solution tomorrow

SUMMIT UP

If the number in each triangle is the sum of the two below, what is the top number?



Solution tomorrow

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------|
| 1 □ □ □ | 1 Drunkard |
| 2 □ □ □ □ | 2 Goes off |
| 3 □ □ □ □ □ | 3 Long-legged bird |
| 4 □ □ □ □ □ □ | 4 Fireman |
| 5 □ □ □ □ □ | 5 Long journeys |
| 6 □ □ □ □ | 6 Repose |
| 7 □ □ □ | 7 Solidify |

QUIZWORD

Across:

- 1 White oak,
 5 Inch,
 9 Salt,
 10 Kirshner,
 11 Shane,
 12 Azimuth,
 13 Bruce Almighty,
 18 Calliope,
 19 Drut,
 20 Réaumur,
 21 Delft,
 22 Muni,
 23 Pyrenees.

Down:

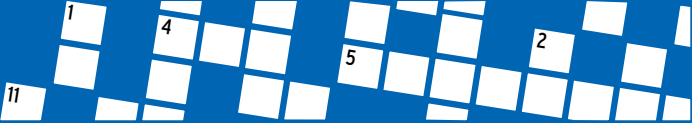
- 2 Heather,
 3 Titanic,
 4 Abigail's Party,
 6 Nonsuch,
 7 Hershey,
 8 Assisi,
 13 Buckram,
 14 Ullmann,
 15 Enigma,
 16 Gudgeon,
 17 Truffle.

SAMURAI SUDOKU

8	2	3	9	6	4	7	1	5
5	1	7	2	3	8	4	6	9
4	6	9	7	1	5	8	2	3
2	3	4	8	7	9	1	5	6
6	8	1	3	5	2	9	4	7
7	9	5	6	4	1	2	3	8
3	5	8	4	2	7	6	9	1
9	4	6	1	8	3	5	7	2
1	7	2	5	9	6	3	8	4

SMALL CROSSWORD

- Across: 2 Scavenge, 9 Acacia,
 10 Rapt, 11 Dens, 13 Dodge,
 14 Forbidden, 16 Attic, 19 Ciao,
 20 Sari, 21 Stigma, 22 Decrease.
 Down: 1 Barefaced, 3 Caper, 4 Acts,
 5 Vindicate, 6 Need, 7 Ginger,
 8 Essential, 12 Notice, 15 Drags,
 17 Talc, 18 Asia.



ARROW-WORD

Arrow-words are like crosswords, but the clues are printed inside squares on the grid. Write your answers in the blank squares in the direction indicated by the arrows.
Solution tomorrow

WORDSEARCH

G	S	N	D	Y	X	T	Z	K	K	S	A	Z	B	G
R	O	P	E	S	E	V	K	C	E	W	X	H	A	B
O	F	U	E	L	H	W	A	L	K	E	C	B	R	K
U	G	G	L	B	P	R	X	P	R	R	G	G	U	S
N	A	A	T	G	F	O	K	X	O	N	N	R	K	Z
D	M	W	Q	O	B	O	Z	T	I	I	S	A	T	X
S	E	F	O	L	F	K	E	P	N	E	E	V	E	Y
H	S	R	O	Y	G	V	E	W	L	R	Q	W	N	E
E	Y	O	O	U	R	E	A	O	B	H	U	P	T	L
E	C	V	C	C	L	Z	P	D	C	A	N	O	P	Y
T	M	A	P	S	U	O	N	E	V	N	Z	L	B	M
N	J	V	G	M	V	I	N	W	G	Z	M	H	F	O
H	B	H	R	B	W	E	S	L	G	S	T	O	V	E
A	I	R	B	E	D	T	C	H	G	K	N	G	J	K
G	D	T	W	Z	H	L	Y	B	F	C	W	T	E	F

WORDS RELATED TO CAMPING

Find all the terms listed below in the grid.
Solution tomorrow

AIRBED ● AWNING ● CANOPY ● COOLBOX
FUEL ● GAMES ● GROUND SHEET ● MALLET
MAPS ● PEGS ● POLES ● ROOF RACK
ROPES ● SLEEPING BAG ● STOVE ● TENT
TORCH ● WIND BREAKS

Arm or leg

Picture house

Ludicrous

Kneecap

Major artery

Number puzzle

Joke

Wheel surround

Bill of fare

Chronic drunkard

Before the present

Unsignificantly

Chest bones

One who damages property

Mother-of-pearl

Consume edibles

Dowden, pictured

Enquire

Lyric poem

Actor, Benedict

Boffins

Monstrous person

Motherly

Spying

Wading bird

Sicily's Mount

Covering for the foot

Legendary bird

Very fat

Native New Zealander

Carr, pictured

The self

Mr. TV character

Pieces of grain husk

Hit man

Newt

Donkey

Heroic

Group of nine

TV series, Howards

Pod

Number

Strike

Journey by sea or air

Portentous

Engrave

Catch fire

Single entity

E in TOWIE

Plant type

Fencing sword

French river

Military operations

Tear or split

Exclusive

Diocese

Tentacle

Undergarment

Long tapering flag

Andre, former tennis star

Estimated (abbr.)

Continent

South-south-west (abbr.)

Jealousy

Curve

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

QUICK CROSSWORD

Across: 1 Adulterated, 9 Tie, 10 Forgather, 11 Toddy, 13 Climbed, 14 Occurs, 16 Hectic, 18 Comical, 19 Kudos, 20 Prostrate, 21 Leo, 22 Dead certain.
Down: 2 Die, 3 Lofty, 4 Enrich, 5 Avarice, 6 Exhibited, 7 Stethoscope, 8 Predecessor, 12 Decompose, 15 Recited, 17 Please, 19 Knelt, 21 Lei.

WORDSEARCH

C	O	R	N	I	S	H	Y	A	R	G	U	M	G	A
A	P	P	L	E	W	O	O	D	P	E	T	J	R	Y
E	N	U	V	H	Y	X	I	O	L	P	X	E	B	N
R	T	U	W	V	N	L	A	N	T	T	R	O	N	
P	J	Q	E	T	N	N	D	C	N	S	E	T	R	B
H	C	L	W	E	U	Y	N	O	E	D	L	E	R	L
I	V	Y	F	O	E	A	T	C	E	I	T	A	C	U
L	D	Y	N	L	M	L	I	G	T	N	D	Z	H	E
L	U	L	S	S	E	E	A	S	I	D	R	H	E	V
Y	K	N	T	H	L	S	B	T	E	W	H	Z	S	I
R	E	N	C	D	L	E	P	H	Y	K	M	I	H	N
W	U	I	E	T	X	T	C	W	D	H	B	T	I	N
H	T	R	E	D	W	I	N	D	S	O	R	D	R	E
S	H	R	O	P	S	H	I	R	E	B	L	U	E	Y
S	T	I	N	K	I	N	G	B	I	S	H	O	P	J

ARROW-WORD

	A	S	R	H	D
C	O	P	S	E	S
C	O	N	C	I	S
E	C	L	A	T	C
U	L	T	R	U	G
R	O	C	S	E	A
S	H	A	R	D	L
V	B	E	T	H	S
I	A	S	C	E	R
A	W	N	H	A	I
R	A	T	E	P	A
C	A	N	A	L	M
P	A	Y	L	A	P
Y	E	S	E	M	I
A	P	T	P	A	U
I	H	A	L	V	E
G	L	A	C	I	E
O	L	I	V	E	R
J	O	T	T	E	R

TARGET

UNTRODDEN dendron, dent, donder, done, donned, donut, drone, droned, dune, dunned, dunner, dunno, neon, nerd, neuron, neutron, node, none, nonet, note, noted, noun, nude, nurd, redound, rend, rent, rodent, rone, rotund, round, rounded, rune, runt, tend, tendon, tenon, tenor, tern, tone, toned, toner, tonne, tonner, torn, trend, trodden, tune, tuned, tuner, tunned, turn, turned, under, underdo, undo, undone, unnoted, unto, UNTRODDEN

THE ALPHAPUZZLE

Across: Lexicon, Shed, Oven, Eloquent, Prompt, Killer, Jungle, Badger (clue), Discount, Flaw, Goal, Trapeze.
Down: Clover, Unison, Oxen, Magical, Accent, Equate, Uncork, Betray, Squalid, Feel, Seance, Enamel.

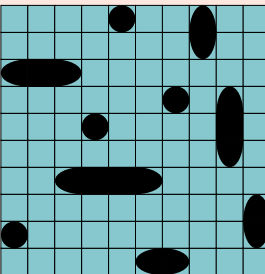
THE ALPHABEATER

Black squares: 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 15, 19, 22, 25, 28, 32, 33, 36.
Across: Picnic, Basket, Jeans, Vim, Barefacedly, Prays, Remix, Credentials, Err, Froth, Shrugs, Squeak. **Down:** Prove, Crows, Climb, Avenger, Jerks, Fog, Malfunction, Ass, Roach, Kingdom, Seize, Topsy, Wrack.

SUDOKU EASY

2	8	4	5	1	9	3	7	6
6	1	5	3	7	4	8	2	9
7	9	3	6	2	8	4	5	1
5	6	2	7	3	1	9	8	4
9	3	7	4	8	5	1	6	2
1	4	8	9	6	2	5	3	7
4	7	6	8	9	3	2	1	5
8	5	1	2	4	6	7	9	3
3	2	9	1	5	7	6	4	8

BATTLESHIPS



CROSS DOUBT

Across: GROIN
Down: PRANK

SUDOKU MEDIUM

3	5	7	9	1	6	2	8	4
6	2	9	5	4	8	3	1	7
1	4	8	2	7	3	5	6	9
2	6	5	7	9	1	4	3	8
8	1	4	3	2	5	7	9	6
9	7	3	6	8	4	1	2	5
7	8	6	4	3	2	9	5	1
4	3	1	8	5	9	6	7	2
5	9	2	1	6	7	8	4	3

KAKURO

1	3		2	1
2	6		1	4
5	2	3	1	7
7	1		3	9
3	9	8		1
2	8		9	1
1	4	2	8	3
		1	2	

SUMMIT UP

89 and 91

SUDOKU DIFFICULT

8	4	6	5	9	3	2	1	7
9	5	2	1	4	7	3	8	6
3	7	1	2	6	8	4	5	9
5	2	8	6	1	4	9	7	3
7	9	3	8	2	5	1	6	4
6	1	4	3	7	9	8	2	5
1	6	7	9	3	2	5	4	8
2	3	5	4	8	6	7	9	1
4	8	9	7	5	1	6	3	2

KEIJO

2	1	3	4
1	2	4	3
3	4	2	1
4	3	1	2

WORD BUILDER

Era, Rare, Barre, Barrel, Abler, Bale, Ale

Puzzles

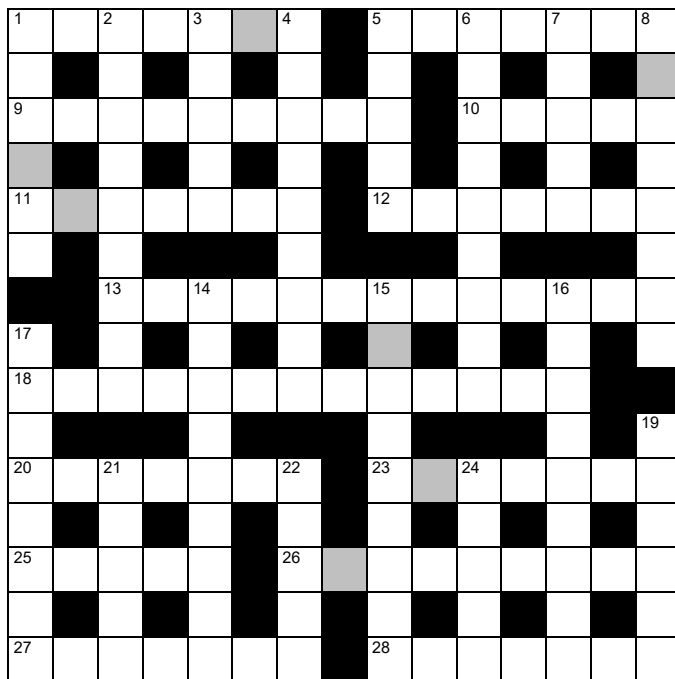
CRUSADER PRIZE CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 Poet takes English journalist to be unshaven (7)
 5 Poor as review about new singer (7)
 9 Sid turned to woman with key, no longer honoured (9)
 10 Equipment I would find unyielding (5)
 11 Tooth, incorporated, is gold (7)
 12 Bone from whole bird included (7)
 13 A fight with heartless couple will occur - it's imminent (5,2,6)
 18 Homework by one dancer forged domination (13)
 20 Ball game creating rows (7)
 23 Struggle with the others on French article (7)
 25 Shrew is missing a sign (5)
 26 Rude about embracing miserly old behaviour (9)
 27 Crime can rely on reform (7)
 28 Fanatics taking man back, revealing characters (7)

DOWN

- 1 Bishop arranged diets and accommodation (6)
 2 Join fool round spies at the borders (9)
 3 Rushes to see game in pub (5)
 4 Art movement assessed and given a medal (9)
 5 Favours teams (5)
 6 China quietly moved oracle in (9)
 7 Gas produces terrible groan (5)
 8 End nomad wandering when needed (2,6)
 14 Old region sounds complete environmental problem (5,4)
 15 Nothing was Roman about rower (9)
 16 One pelt sent to America is more than enough (9)
 17 Sanction a couple of pages with right shape (8)
 19 Scottish team in a suit (6)
 21 Initially concerned with terribly rare helper (5)
 22 Second lady went off in a gloomy way (5)
 24 Antelope from eastern country (5)



FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN

Read down the letters in the highlighted squares to reveal the mystery word.

TO ENTER: Call **0904 161 3700** (calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge) and leave your answer and details, or text **DXCRUS** followed by a space, your answer, name and address details to **88833** (texts cost £1.50 plus your standard network rate). Lines close at midnight Saturday. Or send your grid containing the answer in the shaded squares by posting it to: Crusader Crossword, January 28, PO Box 8694, Derby DE1 9TW. Entries must be postmarked by January 29 at the latest. For any postal enquiries, call helpline number. SP: Spoke - 0333 202 3390.

An extra day is given for postal entries during bank holidays.

● **One weekly winner will be the first random correct entry drawn from all entry routes after the closing date of midnight Saturday. Competition runs Sunday to Saturday. The Editor's decision is final.**

NEED HELP? Call **0904 161 1609** for 5 extra clues! Calls cost £1.50 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

MONDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Poplar, 4 Apprised, 10 Low-down, 11 Opinion, 12 Resit, 13 Inlegant, 14 Thoroughbred, 18 Storytelling, 23 Entourage, 24 Stint, 25 Laddish, 26 Tourism, 27 Stone Age, 28 Tether.
DOWN: 1 Polarity, 2 Pawnshop, 3 Adopt, 5 Proverb, 6 Raise hell, 7 Spiral, 8 Donate, 9 Inning, 15 Obtrusive, 16 Diminish, 17 Egg timer, 19 Road hog, 20 Treaty, 21 Cellos, 22 Studio, 24 Sauce.

Prizeword: Positive

TARGET



● The Target uses words in the main body of Chambers 21st Century Dictionary (1999 edition)

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?

In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word. No plurals. Verb forms ending in S permitted.

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 14; very good 21; excellent 27 (or more). **Solution tomorrow**

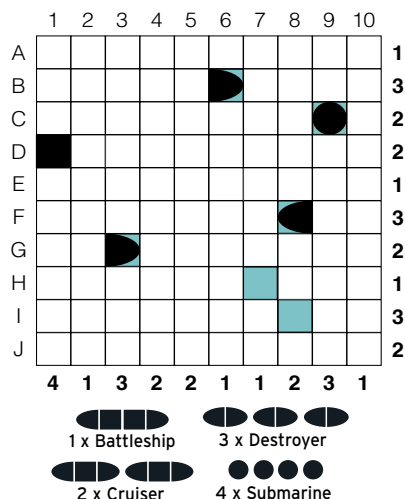
Call **0907 181 2585** for today's Target solution

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

BATTLESHIPS

FIND where the fleet of ships shown is hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some squares have been filled in to start you off.

Solution tomorrow



THE ALPHABEATER

TARGET TIME: 32 minutes

CAN you crack the Alphabeater? Each grid number represents a letter - or black square. As in Alphapuzzle, every letter of the alphabet is used. But you have to complete the grid too! Use the given letters and black squares below the grid to start. The grid is 'rotationally symmetrical' - in other words, it looks the same if you turn the page upside down.

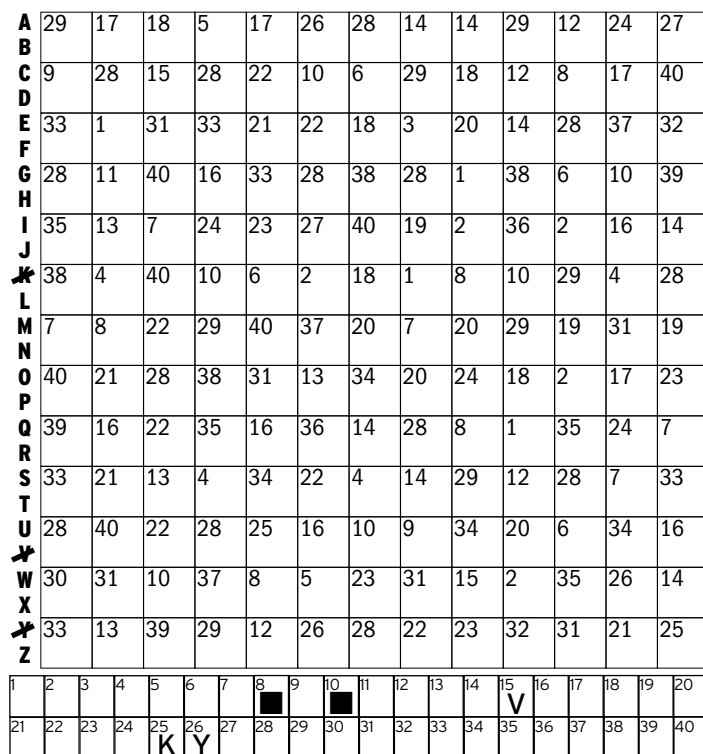
Solution tomorrow

Extra letter clues
0907 181 2560

(Deduct three minutes for each extra clue letter heard)

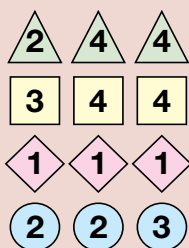
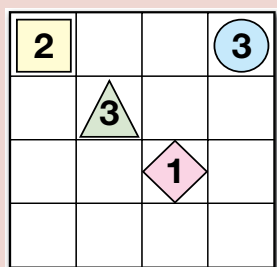
Full solution
0907 181 2558

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.



● Alternatively, for six Extra Letter clues to your mobile, text **DXBEAT** to **64343**. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

KEIJO

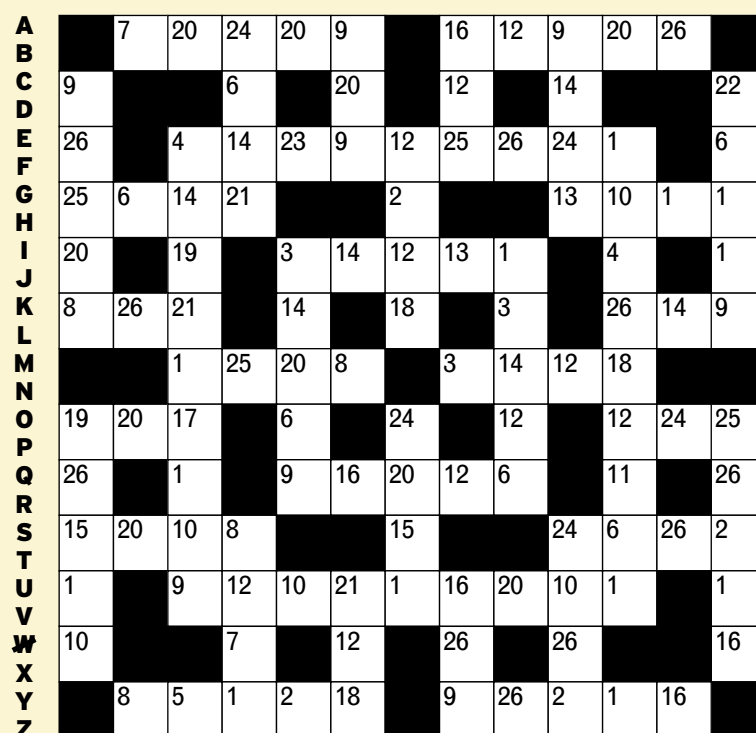


Place the tiles into the grid so that four different numbers and four different shapes appear in each row and column.
Solution tomorrow

THE ALPHAPUZZLE®

Alphapuzzle® tests logic and word power. Each grid number stands for a letter. Every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter or letters - below the main grid - to start. **Solution tomorrow**

DIFFICULTY: 8/10; **TARGET:** 25 mins; **CLUE:** Swig back a stopper.



EXTRA LETTER CLUES: 0907 181 2568*

Hear up to six Extra Letters, deduct two minutes for each clue letter heard.

FULL SOLUTION: 0907 181 2565*

ACROSS ONLY: 0907 181 2561* / DOWN ONLY: 0907 181 2562*

*Calls cost 80p per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Alternatively, for six extra letter clues direct to your mobile, text **DXALPHA** to **64343**. Texts cost £1 plus standard network rate.

Alphapuzzle® ©2025 Acorn Editorial Ltd. All words appear in Chambers Dictionary.

THE DAILY EXPRESS 30-SECOND CHALLENGE

TODAY'S ANSWERS: BEGINNER = 27; INTERMEDIATE = 34; ADVANCED = 18.

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DAILY EXPRESS 28.01.26

WINTER-SUN BREAKS

Page 2



EUROPEAN CRUISES

Page 3



BUCKET-LIST HOLIDAYS

Pages 6&7



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If the dreary winter weather has been causing your mood to plummet, here's some good news. There are plenty of winter sun cruise destinations providing ample opportunities to bask in some rays.

Here we take a look at three of the best – as well as some tempting cruise deals you can currently book to visit them...

CANARY ISLANDS

With year-round sunshine and temperatures that range between 15-21°C in the winter months, it's no surprise that the Canaries are a firm favourite with sun seekers. The weather is plenty warm enough for enjoying the beaches, eating alfresco, and going for a scenic hike along the volcanic landscapes, and you'll find plenty of restaurants and attractions that are open all year round.

Fred Olsen offers a 14-night Canary Islands & Geminid Meteor Shower onboard Bolette departing from



TROPICAL PARADISE
A white-sand beach in Barbados awaits

Follow the sun

Escape the chill and sail away to warmer climes – we've found three great winter holiday ideas

Liverpool from £1,399pp. fredolsencruises.com.

MADEIRA

Dubbed "Europe's Hawaii" because of its verdant landscapes and wide array of wildlife and fauna, Madeira is an idyllic winter destination. It's pleasantly warm in the winter, with

weather that's perfect for visiting the beautiful Monte Palace Tropical Garden, the scenic trails from Pico do Areeiro, or to wander around the capital, Funchal and take in the eye-catching street art.

MSC Cruises offers a six-night Canary Islands and Madeira sailing on the MSC Fantasia from

£406pp, msccruises.co.uk.

CARIBBEAN

Those palm-fringed white sand beaches and crystal-clear waters are calling! A cruise means you don't need to limit yourself to one island, whether you're eyeing up the vibrant atmosphere in Barbados, raft



EXOTIC FLORA
Monte Palace Tropical Garden, Madeira

adventures in Jamaica, or just want to laze on a beach in the Dominican Republic.

P&O Cruises offers an 11-night Caribbean Islands Fly-Cruise on board Britannia with ports of call including Barbados, Aruba, St Lucia, and Antigua and Barbuda, from £1,489pp, pocruises.com.



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Caribbean Star Adventurer from Miami

15 nights | 6 November 2026
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14 nts Full Board on Star Princess
Flying from London Heathrow

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Star of the Caribbean from Miami

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Mediterranean Adventurer

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Terms and conditions apply. Prices shown are subject to availability based upon 2 adults sharing the lowest available grade within the stateroom type specified. Prices and availability are correct at time of publishing and may go up or down. *Save up to £800 per stateroom on selected voyages is based on a maximum discount of £200 per person and applies to all guests. Maximum discount of £800 is applicable to voyages of 17 nights or more included in the offer with 4 guests sharing a mini suite or above. Offer is valid on new bookings only, made between December 9th 2025 until March 2nd 2026 and applies to cruises in this campaign only. Prices shown include discount and are subject to availability on selected stateroom categories and sailings. Discount varies per stateroom type and duration of cruise. Discount runs from December 9th 2025 until March 2nd 2026. **£99pp low deposit applies to all passengers. If cruise falls within 90 days before departure, then full balance would be required as per standard terms and conditions. E&OE.

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LIGHT SHOW
Aurora Borealis
over Tromsø

Got some European destinations on your bucket list? Why not tick off a few on a cruise holiday?

Europe is full of incredible places to explore, so trying to narrow them down when planning a holiday can be a daunting task. That's where a cruise can be a game-changer: there's no need to commit to just one hotspot, and you don't have to worry about food, travel or accommodation as it's all covered.

Here are some of the best cruise destinations to have on your radar, as well as the cruise operators that sail there...

TENERIFE, CANARY ISLANDS

If year-round sunshine, beautiful beaches and otherworldly landscapes appeal, then Tenerife needs to be on your bucket list. There's an wealth of excursions, whether hiking Teide National Park or spotting whales and dolphins on a boat tour. The island's beachfront promenades also make for idyllic spots from which to relax and take in the views.

Who sails there? Marella Cruises, P&O Cruises, Fred Olsen, Cunard, Ambassador Cruise Line

BARCELONA, SPAIN

Take in the epic architecture of the Sagrada Família cathedral, explore the shops and stalls down Las Ramblas, or stop off at any of the incredible tapas restaurants to sample that delectable Spanish fare. The Spanish city

serves as a departure port for plenty of cruises, so if you want to make the most of its world-famous nightlife, it might be worth extending your stay with an overnight or two before you set sail.

Who sails there? Royal Caribbean, MSC Cruises, Celebrity Cruises, Norwegian

LISBON, PORTUGAL

There's so much to see and do in the Portuguese capital, with its atmospheric districts, from Baixa for foodies (you need to try the local ham and cheese), to Mouraria, considered to be the home of fado, Portugal's traditional, melancholic popular song. Meanwhile history fans won't want to miss famous landmarks such as Belém Tower and Jerónimos Monastery.

Who sails there? Saga, Royal Caribbean, P&O Cruises

FUNCHAL, MADEIRA

From the ridiculously pretty Madeira Botanical Garden to the Gothic architecture of Funchal Cathedral, you won't be sat twiddling your thumbs in this beautiful city. Before heading back to the ship, meander through the Old Town with its charming shops and restaurants, not to mention the impressive street art in Rua de Santa Maria. But if you only do one thing, make it a ride on the Funchal-Monte Cable Car for uninterrupted views of "Europe's Hawaii".



GOLDEN CITY
Valletta at sunset

Who sails there? Princess Cruises, MSC Cruises, Fred. Olsen

VALLETTA, MALTA

The Maltese capital is regularly hailed as the "world's most beautiful cruise port", and the entire place has been given Unesco World Heritage status. Game of Thrones fans should take a bus (around 30 minutes' journey) to the ancient capital Mdina and St Dominic's Convent in nearby Rabat; both served as locations for the show. A boat trip to the islands of Gozo and Comino allows you to take in the views of lagoons with azure waters that look like the stuff of postcards.

Who sails there? Marella Cruises, Fred Olsen, Norwegian Cruise Line

TROMSØ, NORWAY

It's not just about summer sailings; a winter cruise can also offer up its fair share of bucket list-worthy experiences, in part thanks to the colder season being the best for spotting the Northern Lights. If you are in search of the aurora then make sure Tromsø, dubbed the "Gateway to the Arctic", is on your itinerary. Not only do the clear, dark skies here offer up some of Europe's best viewing spots for the lights, the city itself is full of beautiful landmarks such as the Arctic Cathedral. Intrepid explorers may also want to take a ride on the Fjellheisen Cable Car for unrivalled views of the landscape.

Who sails there? Fred Olsen, P&O Cruises, Hurtigruten, Viking Cruises

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As the UK's No. 1 Independent Cruise Specialist, we are always on the lookout for the very best deals for our customers. We have handpicked 4 of our favourites for this month, and there is something for everyone in our selection! Think exclusive deals, bestsellers, low deposits and extra on board spend, these are the top deals of the month!

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Sun 6 ***Cruising Loch Broom***

Mon 7 **Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland**

Tue 8 **Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, Scotland**

Wed 9 ***Cruising by Fingal's Cave & Dutchman's Cap***

Thu 10 **Galway, Ireland**

Cruising by Cliffs of Moher

Fri 11 ***Cruising by Spike Island***

Cobh (for Cork), Ireland

Cork, affectionately known as the Rebel City, combines the charm of a quaint Irish town with the dynamic energy of a bustling city

Sun 13 **Arrive in Southampton**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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Day 5 **Basseterre, Saint Kitts and Nevis**

Day 6 **Philipsburg, Saint Maarten**

Day 8 **Tortola, British Virgin Islands**

Day 9 - **St. John's, Antigua** (overnight)
Day 10

Day 12 **Castries, St. Lucia**

Day 13 **St. George's, Grenada**

Day 15 **Bridgetown, Barbados**

Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London

Day 16 **Arrive in London**

Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea. Itinerary is based on 4th December 2026 departure and ports of call may vary on other dates

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Deluxe Balcony	£2,879	£3,549
Conservatory		
Mini-Suite	£3,229	£3,889
Suite (1 left!)	£4,559	£5,229
Solo	£2,799	£3,499

Fares and availability are based on 4th December 2026 departure



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Mon 11 **Malé, Maldives - Singapore**
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Tue 12 **Singapore**
Wed 13 **Singapore**
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Sat 16 - Sun 17 **Bangkok (from Laem Chabang), Thailand** (overnight)
Tue 19 **Ho Chi Minh (from Phu My), Vietnam**
Thu 21 **Hue / Da Nang (from Chan May), Vietnam**
Fri 22 - Sat 23 **Hanoi, Vietnam** (overnight)
Mon 25 **Hong Kong, China**
Tue 26 **Hong Kong, China**
Disembark and transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London
Wed 27 **Arrive in London**
Dates not mentioned will be spent relaxing at sea

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WALL THE BEST
See China's most famous sights

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Planning the holiday of a lifetime? An escorted tour will help ensure it's truly memorable

Looking for a far-flung adventure in 2026? Here are four destinations perfect for that big-ticket adventure – and the good news is there are also some excellent escorted tours to take away the stress of planning everything!

JAPAN

“Everybody wants to go to Japan,” sang the cult musical duo CocoRosie in the early 2000s. Two decades on and it's more true than ever. A favourable exchange rate with the Yen has made it relatively cheap for Brits to visit the cherry blossom-loving nation, and a record-breaking number are doing just that.

One thing that potential visitors might worry about is the perception that Japan is a

challenge to navigate, due to the complexity of its language and the fact that 80% of the population don't speak English. Which is why an escorted tour is such an appealing option. And right now, Riviera Travel is filling places on its 13-day Best of Japan tour.

Guided by expert locals, your 22-person group will be treated to a wide-ranging tour of the country. You'll soak up some of the famous sights of Tokyo such as the Meiji Shrine, Omotesando Street with its high-end boutiques, and Akihabara Electric Town, before taking in astonishing views of Mount Fuji from Lake Kawaguchi and the mountain hot-spring resort of Hakone. Rail enthusiasts will love whizzing through the country on the 189mph high-speed bullet train.

The tour includes 11 nights in four-star hotels, return flights and transfers, 15

experiences, 14 meals and plenty more.

13 days from £4,899pp, based on two sharing, rivieratravel.co.uk.

CHINA

Despite China being one of the richest, biggest and most populous countries in the world, relatively few Brits make it there. Roughly 500,000 of the 69 million UK residents take on the 11-hour flight each year, whereas some 18 million take a holiday in Spain.

As with Japan, perceptions about the difficulties of travelling there, as well as a complicated visa system, may be putting people off. Which is why signing up to an escorted tour and getting a professional to jump through all of the hoops is a smart idea.

Newmarket Holidays' Highlights of China with Yangtze Cruise gives an excellent overview of the country on a 16-day trip. The tour includes the megacities of Shanghai and Beijing, a cruise down the Yangtze, and visits

to the Great Wall and the Terracotta Army.

Such is the size of the 3.75 million square mile country, you'll also be heading to vast cities you may have never heard of, such as Chengdu. The capital

of the Sichuan Province is home to the giant panda, the Panda Research Centre and Kuanzhai Alley, which is lined with traditional courtyards, shops and teahouses. The tour includes hotel stays, 28 excursions, 33 meals and seven flights.

16 days from £3,383, newmarketholidays.co.uk.

COSTA RICA

Very much on the other side of the size scale, not to mention the world, is Costa Rica. But while it might be tiny, it punches far above its weight in the wildlife stakes. The 19,730 square mile Central American country packs in the flora and fauna, providing a home to toucans, sloths and jaguars. Eco-conscious firm





Responsible Travel runs a small group trip to Costa Rica that focuses on wildlife in a big way.

On what promises to be a barnstorming adventure you'll be plunged headlong into the valleys, rainforests and white-sand coastlines. The national parks positively rustle with wildlife. You'll get to sail to Tortuguero National Park, where toucans and howler monkeys flit between the jungle canals and lagoons, before heading to Savegre Cloud Forest, which backs on to the sand-swept Pacific Coast and is the place to spot capuchin monkeys and sloths.

There are over 200 volcanoes in Costa Rica, including Arenal, active until 2010, and you might get to visit the nearby hot springs.

The 15-day trip includes accommodation and local transport but not flights.

From £2,959 per person, based on two sharing, responsibletravel.com.

KERALA, INDIA

With golden beaches, breezy hill towns and sleepy backwaters, Kerala is India at its most

laid-back, and arguably, for the first-time traveller, its most accessible. One of Saga Holidays' more affordable trips is an 11-day jaunt to the southwestern state that shares a tagline with Yorkshire. The southern hemisphere's God's Own Country is a lush, tropical place where you're more likely to be swept up in a beach party or find yourself drifting down a river on a houseboat than breathing in the fumes of one of India's more intense cities.

Saga's Classic Kerala tours include visits to ancient temples and a cruise along Lake Periyar, where you might spot elephants, deer, otters and even tigers along the shoreline. Foodies will love visiting Thekkady, which boasts the perfect natural environment for growing cardamom, cinnamon, pepper, cloves, vanilla, ginger and coffee.

The trip includes eight nights in hotels and one night cruise on a Keralan houseboat, as well as 19 meals and flights from the UK.

From £2,452pp, based on two sharing, saga.co.uk.



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